



Shade Tree and Beautification  
Commission Meeting

Minutes

July 29, 2025  
3:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Matthew T. Starr	Mayor	Absent	
James Brown	Chair	Present	
Brian Ball	City Engineer	Absent	
Colleen Clarkson		Absent	
Quetin Platt		Present	
Duane Barber	Board Member	Absent	
Sarah Wagner		Excused	
Laura De Leon		Present	
Randy Pursel		Present	

Judy Isett- Recording Secretary  
 Emil Diener- Board Member  
 Zane Mikesell- Engineering Department  
 Brian Wade- Wade and Gatton Nursery  
 Russ Mentzer- Board Member

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

- Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - Apr 29, 2025 3:00 PM

Mr. Brown asked if anyone had a question about the minutes for April. Mr. Diener made a motion to approve April minutes. Ms. De Leon second the motion. AIF motion approved.

- Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - May 27, 2025 3:00 PM

Mr. Brown asked if anyone had a question about the minutes for May. Mr. Diener made a motion to approve May minutes. Ms. De Leon second the motion. AIF motion approved.

- Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - Jun 24, 2025 3:00 PM

Mr. Brown asked if anyone had a question about the minutes for June. Mr. Diener made a motion to approve June minutes. Ms. De Leon second the motion. AIF motion approved.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### ***TCP***

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Wade if all the TCP trees were in now. Mr. Wade said he believes they are. Mr. Brown said that Ms. Wagner will have to confirm that she has them all emailed.

Mr. Brown asked about the West End and all the other trees. Mr. Wade said the board of education and Hiawatha Park trees are in.

Mr. Brown said Mr. Wade usually has a couple trees left over from plans being shuffled around. They had a couple spots where they can put trees.

Mr. Brown said there are 10 trees at the Board of Education that are Ruby Sunset trees that were planted under the power lines because they don't grow as tall.

#### ***Grants***

##### ***Target Area Mailers***

Mr. Mikesell said mailers are about to be sent about. There are about 360 letters. Mr. Mikesell asked Mr. Wade what the cutoff for getting his orders in for the year. Mr. Wade said it would be nice to have them in October. Mr. Brown set a goal of the end of September for a cutoff date.

Mr. Menzer asked if the mailers will be an email or hard mail. Mr. Mikesell said they can fill out a form in person, online, or over the phone.

Mr. Brown said the letter said it would be a multi year project because they are covering such a large area. The entire West End from High St. N, Mansfield Ace, and the Clintonville area. Mr. Mentzer asked Mr. Brown what their goal is for this year. Mr. Brown said that he would like to see a couple hundred this year.

Mr. Mentzer asked how the heat affects the trees. Mr. Wade said that they just have to water them all the time. Mr. Mentzer asked how big of tree they plant when they plant the trees. He also asked how much water they go through. Mr. Wade said the trees are 2-3 inches in diameter and 6-8 feet high. The tree can go through the bag of water in a few hours.

Mr. Mikesell said the people receiving the trees agreed to water them. Mr. Platt said the handout tells them how often they are. Mr. Mikesell said the city would water the project trees themselves.

Mr. Mentzer asked if the homeowners actually water the trees like they are supposed to. Mr. Mikesell said they probably don't water them at the interval that they are supposed to water them at.

Mr. Mikesell said they lost 5 trees in the past year, some of it may have been because of the drought last year. He also said there are a couple of crabapple trees that are struggling this year because of scales which is an insect infestation. The insect infestation is out of their control. Mr. Brown said the budget allows them to put all the trees in a single year, but they told the homeowners they would take two years. Mr. Brown said the water truck has been functioning well. Mr. Mentzer asked how many trees they water per day. Mr. Wade said he does not know how many they can do.

#### ***Bee City***

Mr. Brown asked if anything exciting was happening with Bee City. Mr. Platt said there is nothing new. Mr. Brown asked if they had laid out the trails for Delano Park of Discovery. Mr. Mikesell said he was waiting on confirmation that they are actually doing it. He said it sounds like they are. Mr. Brown said the trails in the park are going to mimic the Indian Trails. Mr. Brown said a GIS Technician will have to go out and mark the trail so that they will have a map.

Mr. Mentzer asked if they were seeing bees and butterflies as frequently as other years because of the heat and heavy rains. Mr. Platt said that he does not know. He said there is probably an ongoing study right now so

there wouldn't be any real meaningful data right now. He said it will take a while to process that data and really analyze it.

Mr. Mentzer asked Mr. Platt what he thinks personally. Mr. Platt said from his own experience, he was seeing the normal amounts. Mr. Platt said it is really hard to see the difference year to year. Mr. Mentzer asked Mr. Platt what they plant and remove and to explain the process.

Mr. Platt said they want to provide habitat for native species and pollinators. There are certain plants that provide habitat for many native bees and pollinators or maybe even invasive bees and pollinators. The goal is to maximize the amount of native plantings and minimize the amount of invasive vegetation that we have. In the spring they did live stakes plantings which is taking cuttings from native trees and putting them in the ground to grow into their own trees. All of these plantings support native pollinators. When they did the removals, they went in and removed invasive honeysuckle. It is very widespread and grows along rivers and corridors. The honeysuckle does not provide the nutritional benefits that the native plants do. The honeysuckle chokes out any of the native plants that could grow there. It grows really dense and really low. He said as a forest begins to die out, it all becomes honeysuckle. Mr. Mentzer asked if the two fields that they had were a success, if the two fields that they had were a success, and if they got as many planted and removed as they wanted. Mr. Platt said they did about 500 live stakes and when they were revisited, it was a pretty good success even after the heavy rainfall. They had removed around 800 honeysuckle.

### ***Tree Guards***

Mr. Brown said that 150 tree guards came in. He said he will need some help putting tree guards on. Mr. Mentzer asked what tree guards are. Mr. Brown said they are 42" tall and 15" wide. They are hard plastic and they have a square grid. He said you wrap it around the tree and zip tie it together and then go on to the next tree. It keeps the deer off the tree. It is big enough that it allows the tree to grow for several years before they have to do anything with it. They bought enough to go at Hiawatha Park and Ariel Foundation Park. Mr. Mentzer said he would help with the tree guards.

### ***Sequoias***

Mr. Brown said there is a gentleman in Michigan that is cloning large trees, transplanting and growing them. He wants to contact him instead of buying the sequoias from California.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **OTHER**

Ms. De Leon saw an article that Mansfield was doing a food forest. A food forest is a combination of trees and shrubs that feed wildlife.

Mr. Brown said that Mr. Mikesell has previously mentioned that if they remove a tree, then they need to replant a tree. Mr. Brown said that the new protocol is that any City Tree that is removed needs to be replaced. Mr. Brown said that in 2016 when they did the first survey that they found a lot of bad trees. They have been doing a pretty good job of cleaning them up. They only had a few big trees fall across the road in the last big storm they had. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Mikesell found a lot of tree that are starting to age out.

Ms. De Leon said that they got the save the date for the Central Ohio Canopy Conference which will take place on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Pursel what his timeline is for pulling bags. Mr. Pursel said they would get to it late. It depends on the weather.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Pursel if he had the chance to take a look at the fertilizer. Mr. Pursel said he has not. He said someone else will have to purchase it. Mr. Brown said he could purchase it.

Mr. Brown asked who wants to help him put on tree guards and what days do they want to do it. Mr. Brown said they will meet August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8am at the Hiawatha Park.

Mr. Brown said they should put corrugated pipe around some of the older trees that are still getting beat up.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Mentzer moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. De Leon second it. Meeting adjourned.