

October 10, 2024, Tree Commission Minutes

Chair Beth Kowalski called the meeting to order at 6:00

Roll Call: Beth Kowalski, Alan Gribler, Lisa Wiseman, and Christopher Burton were present. Laura Schweitzer, Mark Fouch, and Lori Pritchard were absent. Paul Hang, volunteer, was also present. Visitors were Anne and Dave Canan.

Christopher Burton moved to accept the Tree Commission minutes from September 12, 2024; Alan Gribler seconded. The minutes were approved.

Visitors Anne and Dave Canon addressed the Commission about tree pruning that had taken place at their residence at 813 North Court Street. The Canons did not realize that the tree they had planted in the city right-of-way would be considered to be city property. There was discussion about pruning methods, rights-of-ways, and the need for better public relations and education.

Old Business:

- 1) Fall planting for 150 trees to start – The Commission discussed the need to purchase new tree stakes and the need for a place to store equipment due to the recent fire in the current storage building.
 - a. Lisa Wiseman will contact Sutherlands and gather pricing information for 150 new tree stakes. Tree stakes were 2” by 2” in the past, some members indicated that we could possibly go down to 1” by 2”. In either case, the stakes need to be painted white.
 - b. Beth Kowalski will contact Jim Stanley to explore new storage options.
 - c. The November 8th planting at Ted Lewis will be “BYOSR” (bring your own shovel and rake).
- 2) Homeowner letters – were sent out last month. We are receiving responses on our Gmail account. Beth and Sheri Theis are monitoring and responding to those responses.
- 3) Schedule drive-around at city school campus – Alan Gribler and Paul Hang will do the drive around with Matthew McLaughlin from the schools. Alan will contact Matthew and schedule.
- 4) Arborist position posting – is going live soon.
- 5) Evergreen planting at Ted Lewis November 8 – see notes above.

New Discussion Items:

- 1) Shelter house fire – This was mainly covered above. Lisa is checking on replacement stakes. Beth will get with Jim Stanley for a new storage location. The Commission discussed making new signs for the fall planting and the consensus was that perhaps an admin for the city could print and laminate new signage.
- 2) Publicity/Communications – The Commission would like to explore having a column in the city newsletter to communicate with the public. There was a consensus that it is important to educate the public about city rights-of-way and ownership/maintenance of trees within the “tree lawn.” Beth Kowalski reported on a speech that she, Sheri Theis and Paul Hang gave to Circleville Sunrise Rotary last month and members agreed that we should contact

other community organizations and offer to speak. Beth talked about an idea to rehabilitate the older city water truck and have it painted with the Tree Commission logo for more public visibility.

- 3) Service Department Appreciation – Christopher Burton moved that we budget \$150 to have a pizza party for the Service Department. Lisa seconded and the motion was approved. Paul Hang suggested we order more “Tree City USA” hats as Christmas gifts for the service department. The motion was tabled for next month; Beth is going to find out how many Service Department employees there are first.