

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chairman Beth Kowalski. The roll was called, with Kowalski, Alan Gribler, Lori Pritchard, Laura Schweitzer, and Chris Burton present. Mark Fouch and Lisa Wiseman were absent. Also present were Sheri Theis, Council Liaison, Tyler Mitten, City Arborist, Doug Baker and Paul Hang, volunteers.

A motion was made by Pritchard to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting. Laura Schweitzer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Outreach – Schweitzer will write a story for the Herald and the city's monthly newsletter about Tyler Mitten being hired as the city's Arborist.

Request-a-Tree program – Kowalski will research signs to publicize the program.

Service Department Appreciation Lunch was held December 13, 2024. The staff were given Tree City hats, pop and pizza from Cristy's. A good time was had by all.

Fall Planting, Phase 1 – The location stakes were put out by TC members on November 29. OUPS marked the utility lines. Dailey's Landscaping delayed planting until after the holidays, and then 8 inches of snow fell, preventing the start of the work. Concern was expressed for the location and utility stakes, which may be damaged or simply disappeared after more than six weeks. Tyler will check the stakes when the snow melts and stay in touch with Jim about Dailey's schedule.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tyler Mitten was formally introduced. The city's new Arborist has advanced certification with ISA, a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Eastern Kentucky University, and an associate degree from Hocking College.

Phase 2 planting – Jim Stanley suggested that we plant 150 trees in each phase. Several public planting locations are already on the Master Planting List, and we will need to add some residential locations to keep the preferred balance. Tyler and Sheri will organize the list for the February meeting. Everyone is welcome to suggest planting locations.

Tree Inventory Proposal – Tyler presented a proposal from his company for the city tree inventory. The proposal includes an estimated 2500 trees at \$10 each, plus \$750/year maintenance for the next four years, for a total of \$28,000. If the city includes physical ID tags for some trees, they will cost approximately \$.89 each. They could be added later. A motion was made by Burton to approve the tree inventory proposal from Ohio Tree Assessment and Consulting, assuming there is no conflict of interest as approved by the Forest Service that oversees the grant. Gribler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Arboretum – Tyler believes that Ted Lewis Park may qualify for designation as an arboretum through the ArbNet Accreditation Program. For the first level, the park must have 25 different species of trees which are tagged and labeled. The second requirement is to have a community event each year. Paul will investigate this further.

Tree Commission Academy – The two-day ODNR conference was postponed due to inclement weather in January. It will be held on February 11 and 12, 2025 in Washington Court House. Burton's attendance was previously approved. A motion was made by Schweitzer to approve the fee for Lisa Wiseman's attendance at the TC Academy. It was seconded by Burton. The motion carried unanimously.

Brochures are here from the Arbor Day Foundation. They are titled "Plant Trees for America." They can be handed out at future events.

Noon Rotary presentation will be on January 23. Arrive at Watt St. Tavern at 11:40 if you wish to eat lunch first. Beth, Paul and Sheri will speak. All are welcome to attend.

A motion to adjourn was made by Burton and seconded by Pritchard. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:57.