

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES - March 13, 2025

The Circleville Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 on March 13, 2025, by Chairman Beth Kowalski. Present were members Kowalski, Lisa Wiseman, Alan Gribler, Lori Pritchard, Chris Burton. Laura Schweitzer and Mark Fouch were absent. Arborist Tyler Mitten, Council Liaison Sheri Theis, and volunteers Paul Hang and Doug Baker were also present.

Lori Pritchard made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9th meeting. It was seconded by Gribler. Motion carried.

Chris Burton made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th meeting. It was seconded by Kowalski. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Outreach - Kowalski, Hang and Theis gave a presentation to the Noon Rotary group at their meeting on January 23 about TC history and the IRA UCF grant. An article about the presentation was on the front page of the Herald. Hang and Theis did the presentation for the Pickaway County Garden Club on March 11.

Request-a-Tree Program - Kowalski reported that Yipes Graphics in Williamsport can create yard signs to advertise the program to citizens. Thirty yard signs in the 18" x 24" size would cost approximately \$340 with a \$15 setup fee. Gribler made a motion to order the signs which was seconded by Burton. Motion carried. Kowalski will place the order.

Phase 1 Planting - Mitten reported that nearly 100 trees have been planted by Dailey's Landscaping. They have replaced damaged trees and are continuing to plant along the residential streets.

Phase 2 Plans - The documents are ready to put the job out for bids. Mitten will follow up with the Service Director on the timeline. The city will work with Split Rail nursery and select the specific trees to be planted, with the goal of creating biodiversity. The labor will be bid separately. There are 63 addresses on Franklin Street that are potential sites. Baker volunteered to research the owners' names so that letters can be sent within the next few weeks. The plans also include trees at the Pickaway County Fairgrounds, Brookhill Lane and along the Roundtown Trail behind the school property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Arborist's Report:

- **Tree Inventory**- The project of creating an inventory of the city's trees has been put out for bid. We should hear more about it at the April meeting.
- The Ted Lewis Arboretum project will be looked at more closely this summer
- There are several amendments to the Comprehensive Tree Plan that Tyler has identified. These will need to be written with detailed changes that can be put in legislation to go before the Strategic Planning Committee and then Council for approval.
- A contract with homeowners who would like to have a tree planted in their front yard will need to be included in the legislation. Beth will work on defining the expectations that the city will have of the property owners who receive trees.

- Tyler also asked volunteers to identify potential tree locations along the city streets. Several of the zones have been covered, but others remain. This will be an ongoing project throughout the phases of planting.
- 100 ISA "Benefits of Trees" brochures were donated by Ohio Tree Assessment, Tyler's company. The brochures will be included in the mailing to property owners with the letter about planting a tree in their tree lawn.

Arbor Day Planting - The Commission decided to hold the Arbor Day celebration on April 25 at 9:00 at Barthelmas Park. The green screen around the Pickleball courts will be included in the planting, as well as finishing the tree line along the fence by the housing and potentially planting near the baseball fields.

Sheri will confirm the date with the CHS FFA advisor. Paul suggested that Tyler might offer to do a presentation for the students prior to the planting day. We will reach out and see if they are interested.

Tree City USA Award Ceremony - This event will be held on May 8 in Reynoldsburg. All are welcome to attend.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Wiseman and seconded by Beth Kowalski. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Theis