

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES – April 10, 2025

The Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 on April 10, 2025, by Chairman Beth Kowalski. Members Alan Gribler and Lisa Wiseman were present, along with Sheri Theis, Council Liaison, and volunteers Paul Hang and Doug Baker. The Commission welcomed guest Tyler Owen. Not having a quorum, no official business was conducted.

The minutes from the March 13, 2025, meeting will be reviewed at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Outreach – No report.

Request-a-Tree Program – Kowalski brought one of the 30 new “Tree the City” yard signs that Yipes Graphics made to advertise the program. The signs are quite attractive. Beth will put the signs in the storage building and ask Tyler Mitten to place them around the city next to trees that we have planted. Potential locations discussed include downtown, on South Court Street, and along the Roundtown Trail. The contract with expectations for homeowners will be discussed with Tyler and reported on at a future meeting.

IRA UCF Phase 1 – Dailey’s Landscaping still has approximately 30 trees to plant.

IRA UCF Phase 2 – The bid process is ongoing to hire a contractor. Tyler has ordered 100 trees to be planted from Split Rail Nursery. He hopes the planting will start in May.

Mitten and Theis met with Christy Pence from the Fair Board to discuss locations for trees around the amphitheater at the Fairgrounds. The Fair Board has planted several trees already, but Tyler will determine a plan to add more to the area with the board’s input.

The Commission folded the letters to the potential property owners and stuffed them into envelopes along with the brochures about the benefits of trees. We then affixed address and return address labels. Sheri will get the postage and mail the letters on Friday. All the potential tree locations are on Franklin Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

Arborist’s Report – Tyler was not able to attend the meeting because his wife had just given birth to their daughter! Theis reported that he has been working on the Tree Inventory and has been part of the process to hire a contractor for the Phase 2 planting.

Arbor Day Celebration – It will be held on April 25 at Barthelmas Park, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Beth will replace the items that were lost in the fire at Ted Lewis: 10 shovels, 10 rakes, 30 pairs of gloves, 3 pruners and bolt cutters.

The invoice for the trees that were ordered was around \$9,000, which leaves \$1,000 in the budget for trees for Arbor Day. Alan will contact Tyler to see if Split Rail can add 5 trees or so to the order. Sheri will confirm with Megan Freeman, the FFA advisor. She will also contact the Herald and get water and snacks for the volunteers. The Mayor has agreed to attend with a proclamation.

Tyler has designed the planting for around the pickleball courts with specific spacing for the green screen. We will email him to see when he will be available to put out the stakes to mark the planting locations in advance. OUPS will need to be called to mark any utility lines.

Tree City USA Award Event is May 8, the same day as our next meeting. If anyone wants to go, let Beth know for registration.