

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES 5/08/2025

Circleville Tree Commission convened in Council Chambers, 127 South Court St. on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Members present at roll call: Chair; Beth Kowalski, Vice Chair; Lisa Wiseman, Mark Fouch, Alan Gribler. Council Liaison; Sheri Theis. Other guests present: City Arborist; Tyler Mitten, and Paul Hang; volunteer. Absent members: Laura Schweitzer, Lori Pritchard. Clerk; Sarah Kolesar.

Kowalski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Old Business:

1. Gribler motioned to approve the minutes from March 13, 2025. Seconded by Fouch. Motion carried.

Fouch motioned to approve the minutes from April 10, 2025. Seconded by Gribler. Motion carried.

2. Community Outreach: Theis announced that the Circleville Herald published a very nice article regarding their Arbor Day Celebration at Barthelmas Park.
3. Request a tree program:
 - a) Signage Placement: Mitten explained that he's holding off placing signs until the new planting sites are complete to give an accurate representation of what they're trying to accomplish. Mitten stated there are dead trees that need to be addressed as well.
 - b) Contract of homeowner expectations: Mitten stated that the City would water the trees for the first two years. Kowalski stated that she wants homeowners to acknowledge that these are City owned trees. Theis highlighted that the contract should note that homeowners agree to care for the trees on their property and not cut them down. Mitten stated he would draft a homeowner contract for review.
4. IRA UCF Planting, phase 1: Mitten stated that he asked for a timeline on when phase 1 would be completed and he was told this week, but had been told that several times prior, stating the last he noted, there were 17 trees that needed planted and 10 that needed replaced, also stating watering bags needed replaced and mulching to complete.
5. IRA UCF Planting, phase 2: Mitten stated that stakes will need to be placed very soon. Mitten noted there was a delay in starting due to finding someone that was approved to do the work, but he was told it could be completed by June 31st.

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New Business:

1. Arborist's report:

a) **Tree inventory:** Mitten stated the new planting projects are underway as discussed previously. Mitten explained there is a list of trees that needs to be addressed immediately, noting that they will need to be removed and/or pruned. Mitten stated there is a \$10,000 budget for removing/pruning hazardous trees, to be completed by the Service Department. Mitten noted there are two trees on the urgent list for this inventory.

b) **Open issues:** Wiseman stated that she will be attending the Tree Commission Academy on May 27-28, as well as Chris Burton. Fees will be \$55.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE

Fouch motioned to approve the attendance fees for Wiseman and Burton for the Tree Commission Academy. Seconded Gribler. by Motion carried.

2. Approval of Changes to Comprehensive Tree plan:

Discussion- Theis noted that they must work with the administration, specifically Jim Stanley regarding fines/fees for removing City trees. Mitten stated fines should be at least equal value of a replacement tree. Kowalski highlighted there hasn't been a plan or procedure established for educating people about caring for the trees, or the cost for requesting tree removal. Theis asked to table this issue and return to it at the next meeting due to other Members not being present.

The Next Tree Commission meeting is Thursday, June 12th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Gribler motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Seconded by Wiseman. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Kolesar, Clerk.