**Minutes**

**Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission**

**Wednesday, August 16, 2023 – 4:00 PM - Bexley City Hall**

**Bexley, OH 43209**

1. **Convening the Meeting:**
2. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Jim Wilson, Vice-Chair

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:** Sheila Straub, Jim Wilson, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Barb Giller

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Susan Quintenz, Celesete Williams, and Dave Wakeman

**Non-Voting Present:** Mayor Kessler; Grant Archer; Elena Andrews, Ellen Bowden

1. Establish a quorum: appointment of alternates as needed

Alternate, Barb Giller was appointed as a voting member.

1. Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2023 – Mr. Wilson

Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2023

Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of the June 21, 2023 as written.’ Motion seconded by Vote 5- 0 - passed.

**For:** Sheila Straub, Jim Wilson, Mary McMunn, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:** Susan Quintenz, Celesete Williams, and Dave Wakeman

1. Additions to agenda – Mr. Wilson
2. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:
3. Introduction of Bexley’s new landscape installation inspector
4. Bexley Bloomers – Mary McMunn
5. Drone video of Bexley Trees! – Sheila Straub

A video of the Arboretum, done by Buckeye Drone Media, was shared to the Tree Commission.

1. Other
2. **Requests from Residents:**
3. None
4. Other

An application for the tree removal in the right-of-way in front of 2375 E Main. The city forester recommended removal of two (2) London Planes trees. Both trees are no longer viable. The height of the trees blocks the security system and cause for safety concerns.

Mary McMunn made a motion to Approve – ‘the removal of the Two (2) London Planes between the curb and sidewalk with the synagogue and the City to determine appropriate treatment of the tree boxes’ Motion seconded by Vote 5- 0 - passed.

**For:** Sheila Straub, Jim Wilson, Mary McMunn, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:** Susan Quintenz, Celesete Williams, and Dave Wakeman

1. **Review of Landscape Applications – Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant**
2. Park Signage

The signage is currently being reviewed

1. **Staff Report: Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant**
2. Meetings with Kathy Rose, Building Department Director and Karen Bokor, BZAP and ARB Staff Consultant

No new updates to share

1. List of approved projects requiring review: priorities for installation inspections

An updated project list was shared with the Commission. Both residential and commercial projects are under review.

1. **Staff Report: Grant Archer, Bexley Urban Forester, Assistant Service Director**
2. Tree Plotter program and training

The tree plotter information was sent out. Grant gave a brief update on how to use the program. The plotter can help locate spots where trees can be planted.

1. Broad Street median cleanup

The lights have been installed in the medians.

1. Drexel Avenue

The tree medians along Drexel had railroad ties in the road that needed to be removed, to make sure the future trees planted in the areas would have enough room to grow.

1. Fall take down list; stump removal, pruning, storm damage

Grant presented a summary of the work his crews are doing.

1. **Old Business:**
2. Three-year plan to infill Bexley tree lawn

The Tree Commission set a goal to plant trees and locate spots throughout the city and have those areas infilled in three years.

1. Commission Conversations

No new updates

1. Meeting regarding Tree Commission powers in approval of Landscape Plan for Trinity Apartment lot

The Trinity Apartments developer has submitted early draft concepts for a site plan for the proposed development. The site is scheduled to have a preliminary review at the Board of Zoning and Planning on August 24th. At this hearing, board members will hear initial site plan concepts and provide feedback on them. The site plan is still in draft form, with multiple options being brought forward. Here are some upcoming dates / touch points: August 24: BZAP (preliminary hearing) September 13: Board of Education Meeting (TIF discussion?) September 14: Architectural Review Board (preliminary hearing?) September 20: Tree and Public Gardens Commission September 28: BZAP Additionally, we have upcoming internal meetings to begin to review potential changes to the City Hall / Bexley Square parking lot and provide feedback regarding those proposed changes and any legal mechanisms necessary

1. Arboretum Web Site updates and improvements

The current list of edits for the website are being updated.

1. Land Use Strategy Committee

As we continue to move forward on the Land Use Strategy refresh, several meetings have been scheduled with community partners to ensure the committee has a clear understanding of projects, developments, and plans that will impact the revision of this document.

**7. Mayors Report**

1. Mulch Volcano Ordinance

City Council discussed the Mulch Volcano Ordinance. The ordinance will also make the landscapers who install the public trees will also need to be registered with the city. The definition and language of a mulch volcano was discussed.

b. Drexel Avenue

The tree medians along Drexel had railroad ties in the road that needed to be removed, to make sure the future trees planted in the areas would have enough room to grow.

c. Front Yards/Corner Lots meetings

Discussed ideas on homes with corner lots fencing, and landscaping have be better regulated. Fence cannot be higher than forty-two (42’) inches in height and 8ft back, allow black wrought iron fencing and landscaping.

Discussed garden beds in front yards focusing on homes that are not located on the corner with idea that the beds be planted in closer to the home and to be maintained.

Planting in the tree lawn be limited to flowers and if pollinators are an acceptable use of the tree lawn.

e. Land Use Strategy Committee

As we continue to move forward on the Land Use Strategy refresh, several meetings have been scheduled with community partners to ensure the committee has a clear understanding of projects, developments, and plans that will impact the revision of this document.

**8. New Business**

1. Election of chair and vice-chair

Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve – ‘to continue the terms of the Chair, Susan Quintenz and Vice-Chair, Jim Wilson.’ Motion seconded by Vote 5- 0 - passed.

**For:** Sheila Straub, Jim Wilson, Mary McMunn, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:** Susan Quintenz, Celesete Williams, and Dave Wakeman

1. Recommendations for Trees for Bexley Project

Ellen Bowden wanted feedback for upcoming grants. After discussion, Jim Wilson suggested Trees for Bexley assist with the infill of trees to be planted throughout the city.

1. Tree replacement and reimbursement ordinance – caliper per caliper; dollar per caliper restitution
2. Other

**9. City Council Liaison: Lori Ann Feibel**

1. City Council Updates

City Council discussed the Mulch Volcano Ordinance. The ordinance will also make the landscapers who install the public trees will also need to be registered with the city. The definition of a mulch volcano was discussed

**10. Adjourn**

Next meeting is September 20, 2023 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM