

Agenda Planning Meeting
Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission
Monday, December 19, 2022 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM - Bexley City Council Chambers

1. Convening the Meeting:

- a. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Susan Quintenz, Chair

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Sheila Straub; Susan Quintenz;
Jim Wilson; Linda Zupnick; Celeste Williams; Mary McMunn;

Alternates: Larry Helman;

Absent:

Excused: Dave Wakeman; Ellen Bowden

Non-Voting Present: Mayor Kessler; Jordan Cavallaro; Elena Andrews;
Mollie O'Donnell; Lori Ann Feibel; Grant Archer; Barb Giller

- b. Establish a quorum: Welcome Mary McMunn

- Ellen B absent

- c. Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2022 – Mrs. Quintenz

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of November 16, 2022 as written.’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub. Vote 6- 0 - passed.

For: Sheila Straub; Susan Quintenz; Jim Wilson; Linda Zupnick; Celeste Williams; Mary McMunn

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dave Wakeman

- d. Additions to agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

Voting member, Mary McMunn would like to add to the agenda under ‘Announcements/Small Victories/Comments’ an update regarding both Community Gardens.

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Sheila Straub; Susan Quintenz;

Jim Wilson; Linda Zupnick; Celeste Williams; Mary McMunn; Dave Wakeman;

Alternates: Larry Helman;

Absent:

Excused: Ellen Bowden

Non-Voting Present: Mayor Kessler; Jordan Cavallaro; Elena Andrews;
Mollie O'Donnell; Barb Giller, Lori Ann Feibel; Grant Archer;

e. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:

1. Bexley In Bloom/Trees for Bexley updates – Barb Giller

Barb Giller shared the donations so far for both Bexley in Bloom and Trees for Bexley. Barb did not have an exact dollar amount for the 'Bexley in Bloom' donations, but the donation amount was more than last years. 'Trees for Bexley' had raised Thirty-one thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars (\$31,930.00) with ninety-four (94) donors.

2. Mayor's Maple Syrup Awards – Mrs. Quintenz

Chair Quintenz shared with Tree Commission the Mayor had recognized the Tree Commission, Community Garden, and Bexley Bloomer volunteers for all their hard work this past year.

3. Bexley Bloomer Wrap-Up/Looking Forward - Mary McMunn

The Bexley Bloomers had put in seven hundred and thirty-five and fifteen minutes (735.25) of volunteer hours this past year.

4. Garden Programs – Mary McMunn

Member, Mary McMunn has been reaching out to other groups to begin planning events for the 2023 year. So far, two (2) events are currently being planned. More groups have expressed interest.

The Community Gardens donated over one-thousand two-hundred (1,200) pounds of food to local food banks.

5. 2023 Commission meeting – no meeting in July; meet in August – Mrs. Quintenz

The meeting dates for the 2023 Calendar year:

January 18
February 15
March 15
April 19
May 17
June 21
No meeting in July
August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

6. Other

2 Requests from Residents:

a. Other

Alistair Reynolds from Ohio Department of Natural Resource spoke before the Tree Commission. The information shared before the Commission had been a year end re-cap regarding the tree canopy, diseases, and grant money.

3 Review of Landscape Applications – Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

a. 295 South Dawson – Pat Ryan, Ryan Landscaping

Voting Member, Sheila Straub is stepping back as voting member for this application. Larry Helman has been appointed as a voting member.

There is an established line of City Street trees along Dawson Ave. Most of the street trees are within lawn or have a mulch ring around the base. This provides for a uniform appearance and rhythm within the right of way. In the immediately surrounding block, there are no other shrubs located within the right of way.

The property two (2) houses to the north, 273 S Dawson Ave, has shrubs screening the front yard but they are located outside of the right of way. Staff has two main concerns. The first is that the row of boxwoods shown are very close to the trunks of the tree and depending on their installation size, they could damage the trees. The second is that allowing a row of shrubs between the street trees interrupts the established open tree lawn in the right of way.

Staff recommends that if the owners are looking to provide screening from headlights and to define the front yard for play, that the shrubs be located west of the street trees and outside of the right of way.

The final decision is up to the Tree Commission to allow the proposed plantings. Note that plantings in the right of way may require the owners to sign a consent and hold harmless agreement with the City.

Jim Willson made a motion to – ‘Deny the request to plant boxwood within City right-of-way in front of 295 S Dawson’

Motion seconded by Linda Zupnick Vote 6- 1 - passed.

For: Susan Quintenz; Jim Willson; Linda Zupnick; Celeste Williams; Mary McMunn; Dave Wakeman

Against: None

Abstain: Larry Helman

Absent: None

b. Timeline for completion – one year from approval to installation or a Record of Action length of time

No discussion was held

4. Mayor’s Report: Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley

a. Year of the Parks Updates

1. Reading Garden between Torat Emet and Bexley Public Library – Mayor Kessler/Elena Andrews

No discussion was held.

2. Havenwood refresh has begun

The work for the area has started. The hardscape is almost done. The planting for the park will done in the spring.

- b. 2023 City of Bexley Budget, specifically as it pertains to the Urban Forest and Arboretum

A new piece of machinery is in the budget for the 2023 year. The department will be able to purchase a new spider lift.

- c. Architectural Review Guidelines – process and timelines

The Architectural Review Guidelines are currently in front of City Council for review. The new guidelines are over eighty (80) pages long and are modifications and updates to the existing guidelines currently in place.

- d. Drexel Avenue installation updates

The light poles along Drexel ave. are still being replaced. The goal is to have them done by the end of the month. AEP is on-sight making the switch to the taller light poles.

- e. Recognition

Tree Commission Member, Larry Helman was presented with a Proclamation!

- f. Other

5. Staff Report: Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

- a. Updates on Joey Chay installation–

No Discussion was held.

- b. Updated list of Reviewed Projects

No Discussion was held.

c. Other

6. Staff Report: Grant Archer, Bexley Urban Forester; Ass't. Service Director

a. State of the Urban Forest: Monthly Executive Summary 2022

- Pruning program for established trees; training program for young trees; dead trees; removing stumps; replanting; unprotected trees; number of hours working on trees; number of hours not working on trees; number of resident orders.

The Urban Forestry department receives over two-hundred (200) request a year for pruning. There is not have a program currently for young tree training. Typically, we will receive work orders for younger trees and we will prune them at that time.

- Stump removal protocol

b. Take downs for 2022 – Summary

Last year, in 2021 sixty-five (65) trees had been removed
In 2022, seventy (70) trees will be removed, mostly Maples tree
between 18-20 inches DBH.

Removals are a service that is contracted out. Boyd Brothers tree services won the bid in 2022 and removed the trees.

c. Other

State of the urban forest

Insects / diseases

This year the city's urban forest had a lot of leaf issues nothing bad.
Leaf scorch, anthracnose, and fire blight were some of the common
issues encountered this year.

No serious issues, average number of removals for this year.

Tree Planting update

Eighty-eight (88) trees were planted this year. The tree planting is
also a service that the city will contract out. Yard Barbers won the
bid for 2022.

There was also a few special request for removals this year. Two trees along College Ave had been removed for the pedestrian crosswalk (in front of Schaff hall and the dorms) and one tree on Drexel and Elm to install a handicap ramp.

8. Old Business:

- a. Status of Exploring Tree Plotter to map Bexley's Urban Forest – Jim Wilson, Vice Chair

The tree plotter is still being explored as a possible option to convert in the map of the city's Urban Forest. The cost to convert the information is being discussed.

- b. Refining the Arboretum Website: updates – Mollie O'Donnell

Mollie O'Donnell has been reviewing the Arboretum Website and is in the process of making a list of all the tree species within the city. Shrubs can be added as well but will only name the shrubs located within city right of way.

- c. Status of ARB/BZAP conversation follow-up – Elena Andrews

No Discussion was held.

- d. Mulch Volcanoes – Brainstorming on reducing/preventing mulch volcanoes – Mrs. Quintenz

Tree Commission would like to educate the residents about mulch volcanoes. Some ideas discussed on how to inform residents are an education page on the Arboretum Website, Arbor Day educational series, and information in the Bexley Blast.

- e. Approval of hearing process parallel to ARB and BZAP – Mr. Wilson

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – 'The Tree Commission hearing process parallel both Architectural Review Board and the Board of Zoning and Planning.'

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 7-0 - passed.

For: Susan Quintenz; Jim Wilson; Linda Zupnick; Celeste Williams; Mary McMunn; Dave Wakeman; Sheila Straub

Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9. New Business:

a. Arbor Day All Month Long Committee: Partnering with Earth Day and Love Your Alley Chairs – Mrs. Quintenz

April 22, 2023 is Earth Day and will kick off Arbor week.

1. Committee Start Up – January, 2023

b. Exploration of standards for tree plantings near street corners and stop signs - Mr. Wilson

A working group within the Tree Commission will meet to discuss the safety standards regarding tree canopy and stop signs. The group will also discuss the site triangle at intersections and look into the safety standards the city has in place.

c. Reviewing Tree Commission's Work for 2022 – Mrs. Quintenz

10. City Council Liaison: Lori Ann Feibel

a. City Council Updates

11. Adjourn

2023 Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission Meeting Dates

All Tree Commission meetings on third Wednesday of the Month beginning at 4:00 PM

January 18
February 15
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December 20



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Larry Helman has generously devoted his time, talent, and leadership to our community for many years, serving on the Planning Commission, the Architectural Review Board, the Land Use Strategy, and the Tree and Public Gardens Commission; and,

WHEREAS: Larry played a vital role in the development of the Main Street Guidelines which guide and preserve the character and beauty of this critical thoroughfare in our community. Larry also provided inspiration, leadership, and wisdom in the process of officially designating the City of Bexley as an Arboretum, ensuring the celebration and protection of Bexley's beautiful and diverse treescape; and,

WHEREAS: Larry continues to serve the community, on the board for the Bexley Historical Foundation and as a member of the Bexley Education Foundation; and,

WHEREAS: Larry's love of Bexley is evident in the many hours he has spent, not only improving the lives of Bexley residents today, but also creating positive impact on future generations; and,

WHEREAS: While Larry will be transitioning into an alternate role in Tree and Public Gardens Commission meetings, we are deeply grateful for the immeasurable wisdom, devotion, and friendship he has offered over the years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Kessler, Mayor of the City of Bexley, Ohio, do hereby proclaim, December 19, 2022 as:

"Lawrence Helman Day"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Mayor of the City of Bexley, Ohio, to be hereto affixed on this 19th day of December, 2022.

Benjamin J. Kessler, Mayor