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MINUTES

Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – Bexley City Hall Council Chambers
4:00 to 6:00 PM

1. Convening the Meeting:

- a. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Susan Quintenz, Chair –
 - Zoom log in and Zoom rules

Commission Members Present: Mary McMunn, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Celeste Williams

Alternate Members in Attendance: Barb Giller

Ex Officio: Mollie O'Donnell

Staff in Attendance: Elena Andrews

- b. Establish a quorum – Appointment of Alternate if necessary

Quorum Established.

Mrs. Quintenz briefly discussed the baby gift the commission gave Jordan Cavallaro.

Mrs. Quintenz then sent around a roster to verify contact information for all Commission Members.

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

Ms. Zupnick moved to approve March 15 Meeting Minutes as written.

Ms. McMunn seconded.

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Celeste Williams

Motion passed 6-0.

- d. Additions to agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

Hearing no additions to the agenda, Mrs. Quintenz moved on.

- e. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:

- 1. Invasive Species Study Group – Mrs. Quintenz invited Ms. McMunn to provide an update on her work on invasive species, which she did, mentioning a video on invasive species and her progress on initial

planning for invasive species awareness. Ms. Quintenz asked if liriopis is becoming a slightly invasive species, and neither Grant nor Elena have heard of that issue in the Ohio valley region. Commission members.

2. Arbor Day/Week/Month Celebrations Committee updates: “Old Growth Forest” organizer and Author Joan Maloof was well received with good attendance online and in the auditorium; new Bexley Fairy Village installations were unveiled and well received; Arbor Day Tree Planting will be videoed and then replayed on Arbor Day; Combined Earth and Arbor Day festival taking place on Saturday, April 22, 2023 | SCG.
Mayor Kessler – May 26th

2. Requests from Residents: none

Mr. Wilson spoke as a resident who noticed a pattern of mulch volcanoes along Bexley Park. He personally created and shared a brochure with these households discussing the hazards of mulching around trees.

3. Review of Landscape Applications – Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

Mr. Wilson read the rules and reminders on process before the review of landscape applications.

a. TPGC 23-1 420 North Cassady

Ms. Andrews discussed the plan, which is a new build. The applicant approached TPGC for an informal review earlier in the year. The project has been approved by ARB and BZAP and they are now seeking TPGC approval. Ms. Andrews stated that the applicants were responsive to comments from TPGC. They did create a tree removal/replacement calculation and the plan calls for far more replacements than what is proposed to be removed. Sidewalks will remain same existing width from north to south for consistency. Bump outs for seating and site furnishings are not shown with the intent of working with the occupant to determine what would be appropriate. Trash cans and benches will follow City standards. The tree lawn will remain intact to preserve the health of the trees rather than the digging required to create lead walks. Columnar sweet gums were not present in the final plan. Day lilies have also been removed from the plan. There are four honey locusts, and this may need to be a point of discussion as they have struggled in Bexley.

The dumpster will be screened by evergreens and enclosed by a brick wall. The number of sidewalks was related to the architecture of the building for access and such.

Ms. Nicole Knight with The Community Builders presented some additional details and thanked the Commission for their earlier feedback. Ms. Knight reiterated the timeline for the project which will involve some soil remediation for environmental concerns before any construction can take place. She clarified that these approvals are needed to move forward on some of those items before these processes can begin but that building is not set to begin immediately.

Mr. Todd Foley with Pod Design then provided an overview of the site design which includes removal of two trees along Columbus Avenue. Mr. Foley reported that both trees have some issues, and removal will allow for a plan with additional trees. There is a third tree near the dumpster area that will need to be removed and is in poor health. The plan does include planting sixteen new deciduous trees and five ornamental trees. The plan includes a new elm street tree on Cassady to match others in right of way. The plan also includes the use of Princeton century gingko trees, sweet bay magnolias, hydrangeas, and liriopie among other plantings.

Mrs. Quintenz instated Ms. Giller as a voting member as Mr. Wakeman is not present.

Ms. Quintenz Moved to approve TPGC 23-1 as presented with the exception that the sugar maple and honey locusts on the north side would be replaced by elms and with the possible replacement of liriopie with a plant acceptable to staff and Pod Design and that the patio furnishings be approved by staff.

Ms. Zupnick seconded (1:05:35).

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Celeste Williams, Barb Giller

Motion passed 7-0.

b. Schneider Park Splash Pad

This is a Year of the Parks project located in Schneider Park near the Astor Entrance. This will involve repair of the stone walls in the area and cleanup of old roots and some minor regrading. This plan also involves creating some shade and seating along the pathway as well as the replacement of an outdoor chess table along with the installation of a birch walk along Alum Creek. The plan also includes a boulder wall and some infill and planting of viburnum for the hedge along with the planting of two additional Japanese bloodgood maples. The plan also includes the introduction of a few evergreens and a native perennial garden.

Ms. McMunn moved to approve the Schneider Park Splash Pad plan with the following conditions: that the proposed perennial garden may not have sufficient light and a rock garden or something that continues the idea of native species due to the issues with light, and with the replacement of the top Japanese maple with a substitute acceptable to the City with a note that a pine would be great and with consideration of the number of pines. Mrs. Quintenz noted the park benches could have a different rhythm to them and not be so organized.

Ms. Zupnick seconded.

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Celeste Williams, Barb Giller

Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Quintenz invited Mayor Kessler and Elena to provide an update on Columbia Plaza due to the time constraints of the meeting.

Ms. Andrews spoke about the Columbia Place Plaza which would provide a brick and stone sidewalk and street that would connect Commonwealth East and West and create seating, a pergola, seat walls, and openings into the lawn areas. The brick streetscape would create significant traffic calming. The plan has rough ideas for planting materials including boxwoods, flowers, and trees placed throughout the area. The plan has been approved by ARB with a fruitful discussion about the materials and the amount of granite.

Ms. Sheila Straub thanked Mr. Dick O'Donnell for his help in identifying the trees which are all included in Bexley parks.

Ms. Straub moved to approve the proposed 2023 Landmark Trees.

Mr. Wilson seconded.

All in Favor:

Mrs. Quintenz adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

The following agenda items were not covered.

3. Mayor's Report: Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley

- a. Main Street Guidelines update –
- b. Old Trinity Apartments updates
- c. Inspector consultant Clouseau – Mark Schieber
- d. Volcano mulch ordinance – Legislative Agenda for Council; mailing; contractors
- e. Land Use Strategy Committee Updates
- f. Front Yards/Corner Lots Meeting

- g. Naming Rights –
- h. Jeffrey Park Study Group

4. Review of Landscape Applications – Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

- a. 420 North Cassady – POD design, Dan Foley; Nicole Knight, Community Builders
- b. Schneider Park Splash Pad Installation review – Ms. Andrews
- c. Columbia Plaza Update
- d. Schneider Park additional installations and landscaping
- e. Oher

5. Staff Report: Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

- a. Review of approved projects
- b. Other

6. Staff Report: Grant Archer, Bexley Urban Forester, Assistant Service Director

- a. State of the Urban Forest: Upcoming projects
 - Spring plantings
 - Parkview project outcome
 - Spring Removal List, stumps, dead trees, pruning; storm damage
- b. AEP/ASPLUDH – Status and Grade

7. Old Business:

- a. Tree Plotter – Jim Wilson, Vice Chair.
- b. A Three-Year Plan to Infill Bexley and reach 40 % canopy cover
 - 1. Budget
 - 2. What additional help is needed?
- c. Commission Conversations; Round three coming up – Mr. Wilson
- d. Language for including time limits on installation of approved landscape plans – Mr. Wilson/Ms. Andrews: Final Approval
- e. Arboretum Web Site Update

8. New Business:

- a. Class of 2023 Bexley Landmark Trees – Sheila Straub
- b. Role of a Parliamentarian – Jim Wilson

9. City Council Liaison: Lori Ann Feibel

- a. City Council Updates

10. Adjourn

Next meeting is May 17, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM