

MINUTES
Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - Bexley City Council Chambers
Bexley, OH 43209

1. **Convening the Meeting:**

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

Ms. Quintenz called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm

Commission Members Present: Mary McMunn, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick

Alternate Members Present: Barb Giller and Larry Helman

Ms. Quintenz appointed Barb Giller to replace Member Dave Wakeman who is absent, and asked Larry Helman to replace Member Jim Wilson, who is absent. Both accepted.

Ex Officio Members Present: Mollie O'Donnell

Ms. Quintenz noted that Ex Officio Member Ellen Bowden is on the way.

- b. Establish a quorum: appointment of alternates as needed

Quorum is established.

- c. Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2023 – Mrs. Quintenz

Ms. Zupnick moved and Ms. McMunn seconded.

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick, Barb Giller, and Larry Helman

Motion passes 7-0.

- d. Additions to agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

No additions to the agenda.

- e. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:

1. Community Gardens Grant Award/Addition of Children's Program to SCG – Mary McMunn shared that the Community Garden has been awarded a grant from the Little Garden Club of Columbus which will be used to fund new Giving Gardens for both Community Gardens. Community Gardens also received a grant from the Paige and Mike Crane Fund for the Young Gardener's Education Program. Ms. McMunn also shared that there would be tours of gardens around Bexley from a large conference in the Central Ohio area.

2. Arbor Day/Week/Month Celebrations Committee Evaluation – Mrs. Quintenz
a. Big Success: Continued refinements in Communication Planning and Integration of Events

Ms. Quintenz shared about the success and plans for the future.

3. 2023 Bexley in Bloomer donations to date –

Ms. Giller shared an update about donations for the Bexley Bloomers.

4. 2023 Bexley Landmark Tree plaques installed – HOORAY!

Ms. Straub confirmed that the Landmark Tree plaques were installed.

2 Requests from Residents:

a. None

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

- a. Mark Schieber joining Code Enforcement team
- b. Front Yards/Corner Lots meetings
- c. Main Street Guidelines updates
- d. Arboretum Web Site updates and improvements
- e. Other

Mr. Kessler shared about the above-referenced items with some commentary from Elena Andrews regarding Mark Schieber's planned work. Mr. Kessler also shared an update on Year of the Parks including an upcoming Dog Park opening and an update on the pond.

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

a. 202 South Columbia – New Build – Nate Sampson, Behal, Sampson and Dietz

This plan is for a new build on South Columbia that includes a pool house and a pool on the east side of the lot that will remain and a new home. The architecture was approved with the condition that a landscape plan be submitted to TPGC. Roger Seeley was hired to do the landscape plan. There are two trees in question for removal, one is a failing tree on the property and the other is a City tree. The declining linden has poor form, internal decay, and injuries. The red maple in the City right of way has a large number of girdling roots above and below the tree line. Ms. Andrews requested input from an arborist, and shared that they would recommend the removal of both trees along with a much smaller tree also struggling on the property, and suggested that new trees could be planted after construction. Ms. Andrews then shared the plan, including the tree protection plan and the landscape plan, which is a combination of boxwoods and hydrangeas, keeping the property in line with the property to the South, with plans to maintain as much of the shrub as possible around the perimeter of the property. The plan recommends a replacement tree for the linden and Ms. Andrews feels TPGC should make a recommendation for that replacement. Ms. Andrews walked TPGC through different images of the property.

Mr. Sampson then spoke about the history of the project and the development of this plan and their approach and expressed their willingness and eagerness to work with TPGC. Ms. Andrews asked TPGC to consider particular suggestions and costs. Ms. Quintenz asked if there were any issues with clarity on the process that may be improved upon, and Mr. Sampson had no specific suggestions. A clarifying question was asked about the process from here and Ms. Andrews clarified the breakdown in process that led to the delay of the plan being reviewed and some steps that can be taken to mitigate similar issues in the future. Commission members continued to ask questions and provide comments about process, with Ms. Giller and Ms. Straub expressing interest in the trees being removed and the landscape plan being presented for consideration again in June.

Ms. Helman moved to approve the removal of the three proposed trees for removal, conditional upon the future replacement of these trees.

Ms. Straub seconded.

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick, Barb Giller, and Larry Helman

Motion passes 7-0.

Ms. Quintenz then asked TPGC to consider action on the landscape plan, whether the Commission wants to approve, deny, or table the plan. Ms. Quintenz did recommend providing comments. A Commission member asked about the potential of a ginkgo for the replacement tree and Ms. Andrews provided some thoughts on the color and symmetry of the plan. Ms. Bowden suggested reviewing other properties for landscape ideas and Mr. Helman expressed concerns with the shared driveway. Ms. Quintenz recommended considering other properties and potential opportunities to add more shade trees and also mentioned replacement of the hedge.

Ms. Straub moved to table this application until the June 21, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Bowden seconded.

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick, Barb Giller, and Larry Helman

Motion passes 7-0.

b. Columbia Plaza – Landscape Review

Ms. Andrews presented the Columbia Plaza landscape at 165 Columbia. The plaza and follies were approved by ARB and several recommendations have been included in the revised plans. The medians are now less formal which was recommended due to the high maintenance requirement of the original plan. The planned granite curbs of the medians have been replaced with sandstone curbs, as they look very similar as they age and sandstone is industry recommended. The revised plan also shows brick which breaks up some of the gray granite pavers which felt too urban. Ms. Andrews also reviewed the material planned for use in different elements, including the follies, and showed the different areas that will be discussed in the plan. Ryan Schultz with MKSK will be presenting on the plan. Ms. Andrews did point out City beech trees that will need to be removed and replaced to accommodate the widening. Ms. Andrews invited Mr. Shultz to speak about the plant life. For the replacement of the City trees, MKSK is willing to replace the beech trees with beech trees, but also felt the American Sycamore, Japanese Zelkova, or Princeton Elm might be good options as well. Mr. Shultz also spoke of the shrubbery and other plant life, spoke of other planned plant life in accordance with the plan.

A question was asked about the messiness of the service berries, and Ms. Andrews acknowledged this comment and also clarified that none are

adjacent to the plaza. Mr. Helman expressed concerned about safety with cars moving in the same space as pedestrians, and Mr. Schultz spoke about measures to slow traffic. Mr. Helman also asked about drainage which will be included in the brick area. Ms. Quintenz asked for Mr. Archer's opinions on the plant life. He expressed support for the tree replacement options but did express some concerns with beech trees. Ms. McMunn expressed concerns with the invasive nature of winter creeper and also expressed her preference for sedges over liriop. Ms. Williams and Ms. Feibel briefly expressed concerns with day lilies. Ms. Quintenz also encouraged inclusion of more metal design elements in keeping with Bexley's traditional style.

Mr. Helman moved to approve the plan as presented with the condition of the alternative plantings suggested by staff and City consultant.

Ms. McMunn seconded.

All in Favor: Mary McMunn, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Barb Giller, Linda Zupnick, Barb Giller, and Larry Helman

Motion passes 7-0.

c. Schneider Park Splash Pad Installation Review – Ms. Andrews

Ms. Quintenz discussed skipping this installation review due to time constraints, but Ms. Andrews will add this to the agenda for June. Ms. Quintenz asked to consider concerns about future access and encouraged Ms. Andrews to speak to Ms. Williams.

d. Other

5. Staff Report: Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

A. review of approval projects

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

a. Tree Plotter program and training:

b. Drexel Avenue

c. State of the Urban Forest – Parkview Persian Ironwood project outcome

d. Spring take down list; stump removal, pruning, storm damage

e. AEP/Asplundh – Status and Grade

f. Central Bexley medians

Mr. Archer has no update on the tree plotter program but has plans to dedicate time to this soon. Ms. Quintenz asked Mr. Archer to address condition of trees along Drexel near the construction and Mr. Archer did confirm plans to address this. Mr. Archer also confirmed the completion of the Persian Ironwood plantings. Mr. Archer also addressed the other items referenced above including an update on spring work and the completion of flower planting and the tree giveaway program.

7. Old Business:

- a. Three year plan to infill Bexley and reach 40 % canopy cover
- b. Other

Ms. Quintenz stated this section would be skipped to ensure the mulch volcano ordinance could be addressed.

8. New Business

- a. Mulch Volcano Ordinance – Susan Quintenz for Jim Wilson
- b. Tree replacement and reimbursement ordinance – caliper per caliper; dollar per caliper restitution
- c. Flyer for Mulch Volcanoes – “Buried Alive”
- d. Other

Ms. Quintenz read a summary of the mulch volcano ordinance and said there would be more discussion on this in the future. Ms. Quintenz also spoke about a flyer educating residents on the harm of mulch volcanos.

9. City Council Liaison: Lori Ann Feibel

- a. City Council Updates

10. Adjourn

Ms. Quintenz reminded everyone Mr. Feibel is the Celebrity Bloomer for the following week, and then adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Next meeting is June 21, 2023 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM