**Minutes**

**Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM - Bexley City Hall**

**Bexley, OH 43209**

1. **Convening the Meeting:**
2. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Susan Quintenz, Chair

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Sheila Straub, Jim Wilson,

Linda Zupnick, Susan Quintenz, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn

Barb Giller

Alternates:

Absent:

Excused: Larry Helman and Dave Wakeman

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

Monette Friedlander, Spencer Martin, Ellen Bowden

1. Establish a quorum: appointment of alternates as needed

Barb Giller was assigned a voting member for Dave Wakeman

1. Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2023 – Mrs. Quintenz

Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2023 – Mrs. Quintenz

Linda Zupnick made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of the September 20, 2023 as written.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Larry Helman, and Dave Wakeman

1. Additions to agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

No additions added to the agenda.

1. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:
2. 2023 Community Gardens Wrap Up – Mary McMunn, Leadership Team

The Community Gardens are wrapping up for the season. Seven-hundred and twenty (720 lbs) pounds of food has been donated to the Presbyterian Church on Broad Street. Six- hundred and eight-seven volunteer hours (683 hours) in service to the city. The Community Gardens received three (3) grants this year from the following groups:

$15,000 from the Bexley Community Foundation for new picnic tables

$1,500 from the Little Garden Club of Columbus

$300 from the Greater Columbus Growing Coalition

1. 2023 Trees for Bexley Campaign, Ellen Bowden, TFB, Chair
2. November 15, 2023, meeting – must conclude by 6:00; December meeting is Monday, December 18, 2023

Reminder there is a Board of Education after the November meeting.

1. Planet Bexley: Joint Application with ESAC and BFV to BCF for April Event funding

A joint funding application for Arbor Day will be submitted by ESAC and BCF to the Community Foundation to help with activities.

1. **Requests from Residents:**
2. Bill Hoyer at 2569 Brentwood Rd. has a dead tree in the northwest corner in the front located in the front of the property. The resident is requesting the removal of the tree.

City Forester, Grant Archer is aware of the tree and it is on the take down list.

Jackie Phillips 17 N Merkle Rd- is looking for ways to help her community and would like to express her ideas and how she can give back. Staff will be in contact in the near future to discuss her ideas.

1. **Staff Report: Grant Archer, Bexley Urban Forester, Assistance Service Director**
2. Issues from Residents

A few residents along Remington had issues with how the existing Linden’s along the street looked after they were pruned. Trees are pruned that are causing hazards.

1. Other

The range of trees currently within the city. The average street tree is twenty-thirty years (20-30 years). As the trees mature and need replacing do the larger trees such as Oaks, for example live longer and are much larger be planted, or do the smaller more fast-growing trees need to be planted.

1. **Mayor’s Report: Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley**
2. Mulch Volcano Ordinance Implementation

The Mulch Volcano Ordinance Implementation has passed and is in effect. Communication regarding Mulch Volcano has been sent out to residents. Contractors will be receiving notice regarding the new ordinance.

1. Arboretum Website Updates including Tree Plotter

Spencer Martin has been updating the Arboretum website. The Tree Plotter is live and has been used by members of the Commission. The goals for upcoming

1. Land Use Strategy Commission

November 1 is a public workshop and open for residents to share ideas and how they would like to see how land to be used within the city. A survey will be sent to residents in the Blast seeking feedback for land use within the city limits.

1. Strategic Plan

The strategic plan workshop will be held on November 15.

1. Drexel Avenue Updates

The Drexel medians now have the plantings installed for Drexel. Lighting for the medians will be installed next.

1. Other

The pond at Commonwealth should be complete in late October. The arboretum trail and plantings at Commonwealth are scheduled for October. Schneider plantings will commence shortly. Outdoor reading room construction drawings are complete and being prepared for bid. Commonwealth follies beginning soon and the Commonwealth unification plan concepts are being refined to prepare for a workshop later this year

1. **Review of Landscape Applications – Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant**
2. 2524 Bexley Park at Cassingham – ROW Fence Landscape – Ryan Brothers

This project was review by BZAP on September 28, 2023, Application No: BZAP-23-18 for a variance and special permit to allow a front yard fence to be approved with the following conditions: 1) the fence is to be set at a 45-degree angle where the driveway meets the sidewalk; 2) a landscape plan should be reviewed by the Bexley Tree & Public Garden Commission subject to their approval. Additionally, the Right of Way along Cassingham Rd is 3’ behind the sidewalk so the plantings to screen the fence are also subject to the review of the TPGC. The plan provides a 1’ deep lawn strip adjacent to the sidewalk to help prevent mulch and plant material from growing into the sidewalk. This allows for a 2’ deep bed for the proposed plant material. Given that most of the bed is facing east and will be shaded by two large City trees, the selected plant material of Little Henry Virginia Sweetspire and Climbing Hydrangea are appropriate for both the size of the bed and the light requirements. Along Cassingham Rd, there are other fences that have been effectively screened with Climbing Hydrangea and breaking up the rhythm of the hydrangea with the Little Henry Virginia Sweetspire will be effective. The Climbing Hydrangea are shown as spaced approximately 9’ on center. I recommend that there be (3) Little Henry Virginia Sweetspire between each hydrangea and not just (2). A full landscape plan was created for the site and the plant material that was selected to screen the fence facing Bexley Park and the diagonal area adjacent to the driveway needs to be included and shown as part of this review. In the triangular area, the evergreen plant Everlow Yew was proposed which will help with winter interest but the final plant selection still needs to be submitted for review. I have spoken to Pat Ryan with Ryan Brother’s Landscape and he will be providing the requested information to us before the 10/18/23 TPGC Meeting. If the above recommendations are incorporated and the plant material to screen the other areas of the fence provide variety, interest, and screening, it is my recommendation to approve the plan.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the landscape plan for 2524 Bexley Park with conditions that the installation of the landscape must occur within one calendar year from the date of approval by the Commission unless otherwise stated in the Finding of Facts and Record of Decisions. For landscape associated with new construction projects, installation must occur within one calendar year from the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit.

Project is approved as presented with the condition that the landscape contractor will provide tree protection of the City trees during the period of plant installation.’

Motion seconded by Celeste Williams Vote 7- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Larry Helman, and Dave Wakeman

1. Bellwood Median Planting

There are two (2) medians along Bellwood that present the opportunity to test native plantings and underground trees. The soil in medians may also need to be replaced. A landscape plan will be brought before the Tree Commission in November.

1. **Staff Report: Monette Friedlander, Staff Consultant**
2. Initial landscape Installation Inspections

Monette Friedlander has been reviewing landscape plans. As the reviews take place updates will be presented to the Tree Commission.

2730 E Broad is currently being reviewed and not all the plant material has been installed yet.

1. **Old Business:**
2. Tree Plotter – Report on walking Broad and Parkview – Jim Wilson. Vice Chair

The goal is to have the tree plotter program show water lines and the right of way. Volunteers were also asked to walk the city and find locations where trees can be planted.

1. Report on compiling Tree Commission related ordinances – Mr. Wilson

Jim Wilson and Susan Quintenz have reviewed all the Ordinances regarding Tree Commission. The comments had been shared with the members.

1. St. Charles grant from BBF – Growing the Arboretum

Bexley Beatification fund awarded St. Charles a grant for five-thousand ($5,000.00). The grant will be used to help with tree planting along the path with a nice variety of trees to help with the arboretum

1. **New Business**
2. Lecture Series

Mary McCunn has put together a lecture series called “Rooted in Bexley’ an education series offered by Tree Commission member,   
Mary McMunn. On January 17 the first lecture series will be held by Dr. Andrea Brennan with Morton Arboretum. Author and Garden Designer, Benjamin Vode from Nebraska will hold a Zoom lecture in February focusing on native Plantings. Rick Dark will speak in March and the education program will be funded by the Community Foundation.

Jim Wilson made a Motion to approve- ‘To endorse the lecture series ‘Rooted in Bexley’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Larry Helman, and Dave Wakeman

1. **City Council Liaison: Lori Ann Feibel**
2. City Council Updates

The Ordinance regarding Pesticides and mosquito spraying. The Ordinance will require residents who have elected to spray for mosquitos on private property to notify adjacent properties of the work.

1. **Adjourn**

A special meeting will be held on Monday November 27 at 4:00-5:30pm to discuss 2200 E Main St. developments. The meeting will be held at City Hall in Council Chambers.

**Next meeting is November 15, 2023 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**