Minutes

BEXLEY TREE AND PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Bexley City Hall, Bexley, OH 43209

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

**Roll Call:**

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

Alternates: Barb Giller

Absent:

Excused: Dave Wakeman

Non-Voting Present: Mayor Kessler; Grant Archer; Monette Friedlander, Spencer Martin, Elena Andrews, Troy Markham

1. **Establish a Quorum: appointment of alternates as needed**

No alternates were appointed to a voting member.

1. **Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2023**

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of December 18, 2023 with corrections as mentioned.’

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

For: Sheila Straub, Jim Wilson, Linda Zupnick, Susan Quintenz, Celeste Williams,

Mary McMunn

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman

1. **Additions to the agenda – Mrs. Quintenz**

No new items to add to the agenda

1. **Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:**
2. End of Year totals for Trees for Bexley and Bexley in Bloom – Mrs. Quintenz

Trees for Bexley 2023 ended the fundraiser year with $37,721.00 from 115 donors

Bexley in Bloom 2023 ended the fundraising year with $18,591.00 from 129 donors

Overall, the total fundraising has increased $2,304.00

1. Review of “Rooted in Bexley” presentation featuring Dr. Andrea Brenan PhD from Morton Arboretum – Elena Andrews and Mary McMunn

Elena Andrews and Mary McMunn shared their thoughts to the Commission about the ‘Rooted in Bexley” presentation. The presentation was very informative and the website features Bexley. The resources available to the public are useful tool to utilize.

1. Mulch Flyer – Spencer Martin; Tie in with Bexley Boosters Mulch Sale – Mrs. Quintenz

Spencer Martin will be preparing an educational flyer discussing mulch volcanos and how to properly mulch the area around the trees. The goal is to include the flyer in with the Bexley Boosters Mulch Sale. The flyer is currently in the works.

1. February 21, 2024, Meeting – 2200 East Main Street could be on the agenda.

February 21, 2024, Meeting could include the 2200 E Main St. landscape plan.

1. Bexley Community Gardens – 2024 – Mary McMunn

Tree Commission member, Mary McMunn shared the first of events The Bexley Public Library held regarding gardening. The next upcoming event will be held at the Belxey Public Library and will feature. The Bexley Public Library will be hosting a “Start you New Garden’ on March 5 6:30-8:00. Join the discussion to learn how to plant your own garden at home.

No updates on how many plats are available in the Community Gardens.

1. Professor Markham Returns: Today’s tutorial

Council representative, Troy Markham, shared a fun fact regarding trees with Tree Commission members.

1. Other

Megan Meyer, Director of Administration and Development, introduce herself to members of the Tree Commission.

1. **Conversations with Residents and Visitors:**

No discussion was held.

1. **Staff Report: Grant Archer, Bexley Urban Forester and Assistant Service Director**
2. **Old Business:**

**Roundtable discussion on following 2024 priorities:**

1. Topics to be included/discussed/researched/benchmarked in the development of a Bexley Municipal care and planting program – Jim Wilson

Vice chair, Jim Wilson, presented planning goals for the 2024 year. A discussion was held among Tree Commission members about which projects are important to the Commission.

1. **2024 Arbor Day/Month/Year:**
2. Bexley Landmark Tree focus – Sycamores and Sycamore Allées – Sheila Straub

Tree Commission member is currently accepting nominations for the Bexley Landmark Tree. The tree selected this year will be Sycamores and Sycamore Allées. The winner will be announced in April.

1. One Earth: One Trillion Trees Celebration – SCG – Saturday, April 20, 2024 – 10:00 to 1:00
2. More exhibitors focused on trees, tree products, tree care, mulch
3. Arbor Day Author Presentation at Bexley Public Library – Mrs. Quintenz

The book selected for discussion is “Wise Trees” photographers Diane Cook and Len Jenshel will be at the Bexley Public Library on April 10, 1:30-3:00 to discuss their book. The photo book includes images of fifty (50) trees across five (5) continents that have witnessed moments in history.

1. Arbor Day Tree Planting – April 26, 2024

The tree planting will take place on April 26, 2024. The location of the tree planting is currently being discussed and will be announced at a later date.

1. Arbor Day Tree Giveaway – Grant Archer

The selected tree for the 2024 giveaway is Northern Catalpa.

1. Arboretum Website – Spencer Martin

Spencer Martin has been working on getting the Arboretum website up to date.

1. Other
2. **Invasive Species ordinance and discussion – Mary McMunn**

Tree Commission member, Mary McMunn, is currently reviewing the current invasive species ordinance. The current list of invasive species needs to be updated to reflect current practices.

1. **Photos of plantings in front of fences – Elena Andrews. Jim Wilson**

Staff consultant, Elena Andrews and Vice Chair, Jim Wilson presented photos of planting in front of fences. These photos presented are currently existing with properties within the city. A discussion was held about which plantings are appropriate and with are not.

1. **No updates on following topics:**
2. Tree Plotter – Installation of ROW shape file
3. Moving to 40 % Tree Canopy Goal in next three to five years
4. Tree Commission Ordinance review

1. **New Business:**
2. **None**
3. **City Council Liaison – Troy Markham**
4. **Adjourn - Mrs. Quintenz**

**Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 4:00 PM**