Minutes

BEXLEY TREE AND PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 21, 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,

Alternates:

Absent:

Excused: Dave Wakeman, Mary McMunn

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

1. **Establish a Quorum: appointment of alternates as needed**
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2024**

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘to approve the minutes of January 17, 2024 as written’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Mary McMunn

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

No new items to add to the agenda

1. **Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:**
2. “Rooted in Bexley” lecture series collaboration
3. Professor Markham: Today’s tutorial

Professor Markham discussed GMO’s.

1. Other
2. **March Tree Commission Date**

The next Tree and Public Gardens meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at City Hall.

1. **Conversations with Residents and Visitors:**
2. **Staff Report: Grant Archer, Bexley Urban Forester and Assistant Service Director**
3. Tree removal request for 783 College Ave.

The resident at 783 College Ave. is requesting the Maple tree to be removed. An email request from the resident was reviewed and discussed among the Tree Commission The tree is in good condition. There are sidewalk issues from the roots.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘To decline the resident request to remove the Maple in front of 783 College Ave.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Mary McMunn

1. Updates from the Forestry Department

The department is continuing to stump grind. There are about 30-40 stumps left throughout the city. Boyd Brothers was also used to assist in grinding some of the larger stumps. There are about 15 trees left to plant from the tree planting list. A spring planting will take place in 2024. There will also be a tree planting in the fall of 2024. Tree care door hangers are provided to residents when a new city tree is planted in front of their home in the rights-of-way.

1. **Special Presentation: Charlie Flower, Ph.D. - USFS –**

Charlie Flowers presentedAmericana Revisited: Elm Trees Are Back in Town. His presentation included information on diseases, tree care, and benefits of trees.

1. **Mayor’s Report**
2. Commonwealth update

The pond is filled. We have some semantic designs that we will present. It would be mostly turf but not for athletic use. The electric lines that have been going through the park are now underground. It would be broken up with trees. It would not be designed to be a third field. Hardscape costs and estimates for the park are being discussed. Grant funding for the park will also take place. A workshop took place to show ideas of what the park would like when it is combined. Council has discussed and is in support of the concept of connecting the park from both sides. The Rec board has voted in support to connecting the parks. Tree Commission will be asked for feedback in planting in the right of way and endorsing the concept of unifying the parks. A discussion was held among the Tree Commission regarding the topic of uniting the two parks.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘To endorse the concept of unifying both parks at Commonwealth and future designs be brought back to the Tree Commission for discussion.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Mary McMunn

1. Land Use Strategy

Land Use Strategy Commission: Participated in multiple subgroup meetings; Launched and summarized initial data from Land Use Community Priorities Survey (150 responses since January 26;survey closing date TBD). Please continue to share survey:bexley.org/land-use-strategy-survey

1. Other

The project along N Cassady Ave near the railroad tracks is still on-going.

There is currently a zoning code before Council to re-zone Livingston Ave as a mixed-use commercial. A minimum setback from the road to the front of a building, a wider sidewalk, and tree lawn are also being discussed.

1. **Staff Report: Elena Andrews, Monette Friedlander, Staff Consultants**
2. Installation reviews

EDGE and Continental are having further discussions with CIC for the design of the ‘Bexley Square’ parking lot. There has been a request for an extension to the “Bexley Square’ parking lot design. There has been a three (3) month extension for a plan and have asked to present a design in May instead of March.

 Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘To approve an extension request from EDGE from March to May.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Mary McMunn

Monette Friedlaner reviewed the residential landscape plans.

1. **Old Business:**
2. 2024 Arbor Day/Month/Year Update:
3. Bexley Public Library presentation: “Wise Trees” – April 10, 1:30 PM
4. Bexley Landmark Tree program – Sycamore and Sycamore Allées

There is still time to submit a nomination for a tree. This year’s tree are Sycamores.

1. Tree Giveaway – 30ish trees – just one size and species of tree
2. Arboretum Web Site updates
3. Tree Planting at Jeffrey or Commonwealth -=- tie into Bexley Bloomers Omelet Palooza
4. One Earth: One Trillion Trees and a Fairy Village – April 20, 2023 – 10:00 to 1:00 – SCG – **City responsible for exhibits pertaining to trees**
5. Tour of Governor’s Residence and Grounds – May 1st at 10:30
6. Bexley Magazine coverage
7. Arboretum Website – Spencer Martin
8. Other
9. Update on Bexley Municipal care and planting program – Jim Wilson

Vice-Chair, Jim Wilson, provided an update on the planting care plan. Please see the link for a detailed version of the plan [Planting and Maintenance Plan Outline (2) (1).docx](Planting%20and%20Maintenance%20Plan%20Outline%20%282%29%20%281%29.docx) or visit https://bexley.org/meetings/#past-meetings

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**

There is currently a zoning before Council to re-zone Livingston Ave as a mixed-use multi storing commercial. A minimum of 18 ft from the road to the front of a building and a wider sidewalk.

1. **Adjourn - Mrs. Quintenz**

**Next Meeting is Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – 4:00 PM**