**Minutes**

**BEXLEY TREE AND PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM**

**Bexley City Council Chambers, Bexley, OH 43209**

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

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz,

Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson

Alternates: Barb Giller

Absent:

Excused: Dave Wakeman,

Non-Voting Present: Elena Andrews, Grant Archer

1. Establish a Quorum: appointment of alternates as needed

Alternate, Barb Giller was appointed as a voting member in place of Dave Wakeman

1. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2024 – Mrs. Quintenz

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of March 20, 2024 as written and sent.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman,

1. Additions to the Agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

Voting member, Mary McMunn requested to add ‘Bexley in Blooms’ update. The discussion will take place under Section E –‘Announcements and Small Victories’

Voting member, Sheila Straub requested to add ‘Pots on Main and Drexel’ update. The discussion will take Section 3 option A – ‘Staff reports: Grant Archer’

Voting member Celeste Williams requested to add ‘Planting standards for trees in shrubs.’ The discussion will take place under Section 5 option A- ‘New Business: Discussion on approved planting standards for trees – ISA standards; Ohio Nursery Stands; ODNR standards – Jim Wilson, Grant Archer’

1. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:
2. “Rooted in Bexley” lecture series Report – Mary McMunn

The lecture series is now complete. Over two-hundred (200) attended in person and about one-hundred (100) attended the streaming version. Three (3) authors attended the series throughout the month.

1. Community Gardens Update – Mary McMunn

Four (4) new planting beds have been added to the South Community Gardens and raised Gardens beds have been added to the North Community gardens.

There are currently sixteen (16) applications on the waitlist for a bed in the North and ten (10) for a bed in the South.

A survey was sent out to the gardeners and feedback was received and is being reviewed. Maintaining weeds is also a concern for the gardeners.

1. Mulch Volcano Communication/Enforcement Plan –

The mulch volcano communication will be passed out during the Bexley Booster Sale. Door hangers have been made with more information about mulch volcanos and why it is harmful. Code Enforcement will be working alongside to make sure residents and contractors are both informed.

1. Land Use Strategy Update – Jim Wilson

The Land use Strategy will be hosting a workshop on June 21, 9am-Noon. The land throughout the city have been separated in to different working groups. BZAP, ARB, and Rec. will be a part of the strategy.

1. Other

Bexley in Bloom sent out a fundraising letter just after Easter. So far, Nine thousand three-hundred dollars has been ($9,300) Two-thousand ($2,00.00) more dollars at this time was raise last year.

1. Conversations with Residents and Visitors:
2. Staff Reports:
3. Grant Archer, Urban Forester; Assistant Service Director
4. Spring tree plantings

The Spring tree planting thirty-six (36) street trees have been planted. Eleven (11) trees were planted on Cassady.

1. Cassady Project – taxus and multi stemmed hawthorns

Fifty-two (52) Taxus have been in-filled along the west side of Cassady.

1. Maintenance Updates:
2. Drexel Circle walls

The company will hopefully be repairs the wall at Drexel Circle and after the repairs have been made the goal is to get a company to power wash the wall.

1. Power washing Pillars and Entry ways

Power washing of the Pillars and Entry ways will happen in the Spring.

1. Tree Giveaway Raffle

Emails will be sent out to residents within the next few weeks letting them know they won a tree.

1. Other

The current flower pots are clay. They last about 2-3 years before falling apart. The metal flower pots are expensive. Ten (10) are being ordered at a time. Total there are about 50 flower pots throughout the city limits.

1. Elena Andrews: Review of Landscape Applications
2. TPGR-21-6 481 N Drexel - Fence Plantings (Angela Niermeyer)

Angela Niermeyer presented the resident at 481 N Drexel presented her plan before the Tree Commission and asked for feedback on how to make it better.

Staff Consultant, Elena Andrews, presented her staff review before the Tree Commission.

This landscape installation to screen a wood fence was originally reviewed at the 11-16-22 TPGR Meeting. It was approved with the following conditions: Project is approved with the following conditions:

1. Homeowner to add evergreens at the east end of the fence in front of the climbing hydrangeas. Design to be approved by staff.

2. Homeowner understands that if the Magnolias fail, they will either need to be replaced or return to the Tree and Public Gardens Commission with a revised plan for the area where the Magnolias are located. The landscape was installed but not per the approved plan and conditions. David Hrdlicka, Code Enforcement Officer, sent Angela Niermeyer a letter stating two options for compliance.

The options for compliance are as follows:

1. Install the missing landscape plants from the approved plan reviewed on 11/16/22 by the Tree and Public Gardens Commission. The missing plants include (3) Hydrangea petiolaris (Climbing Hydrangea) on the east and west ends of the fence and evergreen shrubs in front of the (2) Climbing Hydrangea on the east end. The landscape staff recommendation is to add a minimum of (5) Boxwood (#3 installation size) to match the nearby existing Boxwood. There is not a need to remove the additional (3) Magnolia grandiflora ‘Bracken’s Brown Beauty’. Only (5) were proposed in the original approved plan. It is acceptable to have the (8) trees in that area.

2. Revise the plan to match what has been installed and return to the Tree Commission to explain the changes and seek approval for the revisions.

The homeowner chose to return to the Tree Commission with a revised plan that has (8) Brackens Brown Magnolia trees evenly spaced in front of the fence. The reasons stated for the change are that the ‘purchased evergreen bushes did not look aesthetically pleasing’ and that ‘(3) additional, larger (8 ft) than proposed (5-6 ft) trees were available.

The Bracken’s Brown Beauty Southern Magnolia will grow to be 20-30’ tall by 15-25’ wide. It has large white blooms in May/June and can live in full sun to part shade. The tree placement is appropriate for the light conditions as well as placed far enough away from the fence to allow growth into the full mature size. It is an evergreen tree so will provide year-round interest and eventually screen the majority of the fence. The repetition of the same tree is an aesthetic choice that fits with the overall design of the home and homeowner’s desire for a more modern appearance in the side yard associated with the pool. With the City’s goal to increase the overall tree canopy coverage, having (8) trees instead of (5) is a benefit to the community. The staff recommendation is to approve the revised plan as presented.

Barb Giller made a motion to Approve– ‘the landscape plan at 481 N Drexel as present.’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 5- 2 - passed.

For: Sheila Straub, Barb Giller, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick

Against: Susan Quintenz, Jim Wilson

Abstain:

 Absent: Dave Wakeman,

 2. TPGC-23-3 2425 Sherwood Rd - New Build Landscape Revision

 (Andy Miller)

Andy Miller represented the resident at 2425 Sherwood presented the plan before the Tree Commission and asked for feedback on how to make it better.

Staff Consultant, Elena Andrews, presented her staff review before the Tree Commission.

Please indicate the Right-of-Way lines for Sherwood Rd and Cassady Ave on the landscape plan

On the plant list, please add the common names and installation sizes for the proposed material.

The footprint of the new house has graciously taken into account the mature trees on site and the design has made an effort to protect as many of them as possible. Tree protection of City and private trees will be provided. The design intent of the plant material is to create an organic and unbalanced forms that support the strong architectural elements of the stone pier and wood columns which are the ‘built’ version of nature. The plant material is appropriate to the site conditions. The beds will be irrigated.

TPGC-23-3 was previously approved on 3-15-23 with the following condition: “The approval is subject to staff review for any changes with plant species and the arborvitae on the south side of the driveway must be replaced if damaged during construction.”

Since its approval, the landscape plan has been revised by David Voyles and Andy Miller. The new landscape plan has more generous plant beds surrounding the craftsman style home with a more robust plant palette. Overall, the plantings are appropriate to the site conditions and are approved by the Staff Consultant.

However, there are three items that need to be reviewed by the Tree Commission:

1. The bed at the corner of Sherwood Rd and Cassady Ave. This bed occurs within the Right-of-Way along Sherwood Rd and Cassady Ave as well as partially in the Site Triangle that dictates plant material shall not exceed 32 inches in height. The proposed plant material is all less than 32 inches. However, it is recommended that the beds be pulled 12-24 inches away from the edge of the sidewalk to allow for a lawn buffer.

1230.76 SIGHT TRIANGLE, INTERSECTION. "Sight Triangle, Intersection" means on a corner lot, an area between the curb line or edge of pavement of the two (2) intersecting streets and a diagonal line connecting the curb or edge of pavement of intersecting streets at a point thirty (30) feet from their point of intersection. In an intersection clearance zone, no fence, snow fence, wall, ornamental landscaping or feature, mound, or hedge shall exceed thirty-two (32) inches in height above the grade of the pavement of street gutter. (Ord. 29-16. Passed 11-15-16.)

2. The bed at the southeast corner of the property by the driveway. In this revised plan, the with of the driveway has been reduced allowing for a more generous bed between the driveway and alley. Along the southern property line, (11) additional Thuja occidentalis ‘Nigra’/Arborvitae have been added to extend and fill in the existing evergreen screening. In the zone closest to the sidewalk, the bed has been amended from having a simple row of Arborviate to an expanded bed of Imperata cylindrica ‘Red Baron’/Blood grass with (2) new Betula papyrifera ‘Select’/Birch and (3) Thuja occidentalis ‘Woodwardii’/Woodward Arborvitae – a more globose form of the shrub. This revision will still provide screening but allow a better visual line of site to see approaching pedestrians and cars from the alley and is appropriate to the overall design.

The removal of the Boxelder tree at the southwest corner of the property. The Acer negundo/Boxelder tree’s condition was listed as ‘Poor’ in the Existing Tree Inventory that was submitted as part of the original application. As the year has progressed, the health of the tree has not improved, and the Owners would like to remove it prior to installing the new plant material around it. The originally approved plan only had (2) Dogwoods proposed. This revised landscape plan has (9) new trees proposed – (2) Cornus florida/Dogwood; (6) Betula papyrifera ‘Select’/Paper Birch; (1) Acer palmatum ‘Bloodgood’/Japanese Maple. The addition of the (7) new trees offset the removal of the Boxelder.

It is the Staff Consultant’s recommendation to approved the plan as presented with the condition of providing a 12-24 inch lawn buffer between the sidewalk and bed at the northeast corner

 Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve– ‘the landscape plan at 2425 Sherwood with the condition per the recommendation of Staff Consultant to approved the plan as presented with the condition of providing a twelve or twenty-four (12-24) inch lawn buffer or sedum between the sidewalk and bed at the northeast corner.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

 Absent: Dave Wakeman,

 3. TPGR-24-2 261 N Drexel - ROW Plantings (Jamie Lewis)

Jamie Lewis the property owner of 261 N Drexel presented the landscape plan.

Staff Consultant, Elena Andrews, presented her staff review before the Tree Commission.

As part of the Record of Action for BZAP-23-25, the overall landscape plan is to be reviewed by the Landscape Consultant for approval. The landscape plan for the private property has been reviewed and approved by the Landscape Consultant. However, there are (8) trees planted in the Right of Way (ROW) along Boston Avenue that are under the jurisdiction of the Tree and Public Gardens Commission.

 The proposed and planted tree in the ROW is a Green Vaze Zelkova (Zelkova serrata ‘Green Vase’) which will grow to 60-80’ tall by 40-50’ wide. The street tree for Boston Ave is a Shingle Oak (Quercus imbricaria) which will grow to 40-60’ tall by 40-60’ wide. While staff can approve the landscape on private property, material planted in the ROW needs to reviewed and approved by the Tree Commission.

Three options were presented to the applicant for consideration:

1. Replace all the Green Vase Zelkovas with the Shingle Oak and we recommend spacing them 40-50' on center, instead of the 27' feet on center that the Green Vase Zelkovas are planted. This would not require the owner and the plan to come before the Tree Commission for review and can be approved by the Staff Consultant and Urban Forester, Grant Archer.

2. Replace every other Green Vase Zelkova with a Shingle Oak. In talking to Grant, the Green Vase would not get as large as the Shingle Oak. You could replace (3) of the Green Vase Zelkova with the Shingle Oak or (5) depending on the landscape designer's vision. This would need to come to the Tree Commission for review since the Green Vase Zelkovas are not the approved street tree for Boston. Note that this option increases tree species diversity as well as include the approved street tree.

3. Keep the (8) Green Vase Zeklovas and come to the Tree Commission for review and request that the Green Vase Zelkovas be allowed to be planted in lieu of the approved street tree.

Since there is limited open space for the City to plant large scale trees in the ROW, it is the staff recommendation for the owner to remove the (8) Green Vase Zelkovas and request that the City to plant an appropriate number of Shingle Oak trees. Note that while the City will be responsible for the health and maintenance of the trees, it is still the owner’s responsibility to maintain the lawn within the ROW

Barb Giller made a motion to Approve– ‘the landscape plan at 261 N Drexel as presented and as planted.’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 2- 5 - denied.

For: Sheila Straub, Barb Giller,

Against: Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Susan Quintenz, Jim Wilson

Abstain:

 Absent: Dave Wakeman,

 4. Updates on March 20, 2024, tabled application and City Council review of installations in the ROW – Mayor Kessler, Elena Andrews

 There are two applications before city council for hardscape within the right-of-way, 141 S Drexel and 394 S Columbia are the properties currently under review. Tree Commission will provide recommendations.

1. Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley
2. Unification of Columbia

Phase 1 has started. Phase 2 will include design work and is still a working process.

1. Birch Walk at Schneider Park

The Birch walk has been installed. The grass needs to grow.

1. Updates on 2200 East Main Street

2200 East Main Street: Working with Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) on easement agreement for the Bexley Square parking lot; Participating in internal weekly planning meetings with Building and Zoning Director Kathy Rose and Continental Development representatives

1. Old Business:
2. New Business:
3. Discussion on approved planting standards for trees – ISA standards; Ohio Nursery Stands; ODNR standards – Jim Wilson, Grant Archer

A project is currently underway and standards are being drafted. A discussion was held requesting for feedback how to update the existing standards the city has in place.

 Approval of 2024 Bexley Landmark Tree Nominations: Sheila Straub

Tree Commission member, Sheila Straub shared photos of trees that has been nominated for the 2024 Landmark Tree Species located on the property of Jeffrey Park, Sheridan, south Bexley

Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve– ‘the 2024 Bexley Landmark Tree Nominations’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman

1. 2025 Bexley Landmark Tree Species Selection – Sheila Straub

The 2025 Bexley Landmark Tree Species Selection is the American Beech Tree, Tri-colored Beech, and European Beech

Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve– ‘the 2025 Bexley Landmark Tree as the American Beech, Tri-colored Beech, and European Beech tree’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman

1. Other
2. No City Council Liaison Report

6:00 PM ADJOURNMENT

Arbor Day all April long:

1. Jeffrey Mansion Tree Planting with JM Pre-schoolers; Mayor; Mike Price – 2 Jefferson Elms; 1 Swamp White Oak – April 10
2. Arbor Day Author Presentation: “Wise Trees” – Nat Geo photographers Diane Cook and Len Jenshel – April 10
3. Mulch Volcano information roll out – Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20
4. 2024 Bexley Landmark Tree program – Stately Sycamores – April 17, 2024
5. Free Tree Giveaway – April, 2024
6. One Earth: One Trillion Trees and a Fairy Village – April 20, 2023 – 10:00 to 1:00 – SCG –
7. Bexley Bloomers Omelet Palooza – April 26, 2024
8. Tour of Governor’s Residence and Grounds – May 1, 2024 – 10:30 AM