**Minutes**

**BEXLEY TREE AND PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, March 20, 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, Jim Wilson, Susan Quintenz, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn

Alternates:

Absent:

Excused: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick, Larry Helman, Barb Giller, Ellen Bowden

Non-Voting Present: Elena Andrews, Troy Markham, Spencer Martin

1. Establish a Quorum: appointment of alternates as needed
2. Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2024 – Mrs. Quintenz

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of February 21, 2024 as written and edit that Tree Commission Member, Mary McMunn, was absent’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 5- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick

1. Additions to the Agenda – Mrs. Quintenz
2. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:
3. “Rooted in Bexley” lecture series – Mary McMunn

Tree Commission member, Mary McMunn, provided an update on the next ‘Rooted in Bexley’ lecture series. The series are held at the Bexley Public Library. The next few series will be held on April 10th and April 12th.

1. Professor Markham: Today’s Tutorial

The lesson was regarding diseases in plants.

1. Other
2. Conversations with Residents and Visitors:
3. Staff Reports:
4. Spencer Martin, Parks Forester –
5. Spring tree plantings.

The spring plantings are currently underway.

1. Maintenance Updates
2. Arboretum Website Postings and Improvements

No new updates

1. Jeffrey Woods Festival
2. Elena Andrews – Staff Consultant – Installation Reviews
 1. TPGC-24-1 - 2711 Brentwood Rd New Build, presented by Joe Moss

This landscape plan is associated with a new build located on the corner of Brentwood Rd and S. Roosevelt Ave. The architecture style of the home is modern, and the landscape supports the modern design while still bringing traditional elements to the public elevations.

The footprint of the home was designed to save one of the large caliper trees in the rear yard but the tree in the center of the rear yard cannot be saved due to the construction. A tree along S. Roosevelt Ave on private property needs to be removed for the new driveway access to the home. The row of hemlocks along the east property line are at the end of their life span, are not healthy, and provide little to no screening and will be removed. The homeowners have spoken to the neighbor who have no objections to the removal of these trees, have reviewed the proposed new landscape (including the privacy fence between their properties) and support the plan. While (17) seventeen trees will be removed from the site, (25) twenty-five new trees are proposed to replace them in addition to more shrubs and perennials. All invasive honeysuckle will be removed from the site.

Tree protection has been indicated for both City trees and private trees.

The proposed landscape plan provides a variety and site appropriate selection of trees, shrubs, and perennials for both the foundation of the home as well as along the rear yard property line to maintain screening for the neighboring properties.

City Staff recommends approving the plan as presented.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve with Conditions – ‘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 Fact & Record of Decision. For landscape associated with new construction projects, installation must occur within one calendar year from the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit. The project was approved as presented with the condition that the City Arborist, City Staff, and Homeowners/Architect meet on site to determine if one or two City Street Trees (Tulip Poplar) are appropriate for planting in the Right of Way along Roosevelt Ave and that one City Street Tree (Green Mountain Sugar Maple) be planted near the location of the recently removed Street Tree along Brentwood Rd. All trees will be provided and installed by the Homeowner.’

Motion seconded by Mary McMunn Vote 5- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick

 2. TPGC-24-2 - 2741 E Main St - Katalina Restaurant, presented by Matt Lones

BZAP-24-1 was approved by the ARB on 2/8/24 for the conversion of the Boston Market restaurant to a Katalina restaurant. The project will provide an expanded courtyard for outdoor seating as well as landscape around the development. As a commercial project, the landscape plan is subject to review by the Tree Commission.

The proposed landscape plan shows a variety of evergreen boxwood, tall grasses, coneflowers and two ornamental trees around the patio to screen the fence as well as provide seasonal interest. Note that the two multi-stem Eastern Redbuds shown in the tree lawn/City Right-of-Way should be located in the lawn area adjacent to the Feather Reed Grasses.

The parking spaces are screened by evergreen shrubs per code and Emerald Arborvitae are placed on the east elevation between the wall art to provide landscape.

All plant material is appropriate to the commercial application.

There is room to have a future London Plan in the tree lawn just east of the curb cut off Main Street which will help to screen traffic from the patio.

City Staff recommends approving the plan as presented with the note that a revised plan showing their proper location not in the ROW be uploaded to ViewPoint for future reference and to use as the basis for future landscape inspections. There is not a need to revise the renderings to show this modification.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘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 Fact & Record of Decision. For landscape associated with new construction projects, installation must occur within one calendar year from the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit. The project was approved as presented. It was noted that if the property owner elects to delay the installation of the two Redbud Trees until the fall of 2024 for the health and/or availability of the trees, it is acceptable to the Tree Commission.’

Motion seconded by Mary McMunn Vote 5- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick

1. TPGR-24-1 - 2529 E Broad St - ROW Plantings, presented by Melissa Rottier

Per BZAP-23-16, the landscape plan associated with a new fence planned for the property needs to be reviewed by the City Landscape Consultant. The location of the fence has been modified and in order to screen the 42” tall fence along Cassady Ave, plants will need to be located in the Right-of-Way (ROW) and reviewed by the Tree Commission. Note that at this time, a fence along Broad Street is not proposed but if it is installed in the future, the Staff Consultant will need to review the plan and any associated landscape improvements.

The location of the fence which has been approved by BZAP on the property line is approximately 67” behind the sidewalk. A 2-foot lawn area is provided immediately adjacent to the sidewalk to prevent plant material and mulch from obstructing pedestrian traffic.

An existing tree sits just inside of the property line, south of the pedestrian walk to the front door. The homeowner explained that they will modify the fence around the tree as necessary in the field but the fence will move onto the property and not into the ROW to avoid the trunk.

The submitted landscape plan includes evergreen boxwood, two hydrangea on either side of the pedestrian gate, as well as arborvitae at the northeast corner which continue west along Broad Street to screen the property. A row of boxwood to define a property line or screen a fence is a common typology

seen throughout Bexley and fits with the traditional architecture of the home.

Once the boxwoods mature, a (two foot) 2-foot space will exist between the boxwood. The homeowner may want to consider planting a perennial between the boxwood to provide a variety of plant material and visual interest. This is up to the discretion of the Tree Commission.

City Staff recommends approving the plan as presented and will support the Tree Commissions recommendation on additional plant material between the boxwood if required.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve with Conditions – ‘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 Fact & Record of Decision. For landscape associated with new construction projects, installation must occur within one calendar year from the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit. The project was approved as presented with the following conditions: 1. Perennials are to be installed between the Inkberry in the bed in front of the fence along Cassady Ave. The City Staff Consultant will provide options for perennials to the Homeowners and confirm the final selection with the Homeowners. 2. Tree protection will be provided around City Street Trees on Cassady Ave during the installation of the fence and landscape. 3. Any changes to the plantings in the Right-of-Way will need to come back to the Tree Commission for review.

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Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 5- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick

1. TPGR-24-2 - 141 S Drexel Ave - ROW Plantings, presented by Pat Ryan

Per the Decision and Record of Action of BZAP-23-37 on 1/25/24, two stone columns were approved to be placed twelve inches (12”) behind the sidewalk in the City Right-of-Way. BZAP referred the landscape plan to the TPGC for review and approval. The Hold Harmless agreement requested by BZAP has been prepared by Kathy Rose and is awaiting signatures.

Two quarter round beds are proposed around the columns that flank the inside edges of a circular driveway. The beds are approximately seven feet (7’) deep. A row of Green Velvet Boxwoods (Buxus) at the outside curves of each bed. While the plan indicates, Purple Palace Coral Bells (Heuchera), the owner would instead like to have four seasons of annual plants installed.

While four seasons of annual color would be beautiful, I have concerns about what would actually be proposed, the time frame, and expected length of plant life for each season. Additionally, if the homeowner decides to no longer install four seasons of color or they move, a large portion of the bed

will remain empty. If the Tree Commission sees fit to allow four seasons of color to be installed, it is the City Staff’s recommendation to have the owner provide additional information on the seasonal annuals including:

proposed plant material, anticipated lifespan of plant material, and installation schedule.

There should also be a condition that if four seasons are no longer installed, a new landscape plan needs to be submitted for staff approval. If the Tree Commission prefers perennials, the Purple Palace Coral Bells are appropriate to the site. I would however recommend a smaller perennial in the twelve inches (12”) space between the column and the sidewalk and driveway, such as a Liriope or Dianthus, to soften that edge that can be proposed by the designed and submitted for staff approval.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘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 Fact & Record of Decision. For landscape associated with new construction projects, installation must occur within one calendar year from the issuance of a temporary occupancy permit. The project was approved as presented with the following conditions: 1. Homeowner and Landscape Designer to provide planting plan detailing proposed annual plantings and installation timelines to the City Staff Consultant for final review and approval. 2. Any future modifications to the landscape plan need to be presented to the City Staff Consultant for review and approval. 3. Any plant material that does not survive needs to be replaced as soon as possible. 4. The conditions of this approval need to be conveyed to future owners of the home by a deed amendment placed by the current owner.’

Motion seconded by Mary McMunn Vote 5- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick

 5. TPGR-24-3 - 394 S Columbia Ave - ROW Plantings, presented by Karen McCoy

This project was originally reviewed under application number TPGR-21-3 as a new build on 5/19/21. The project was approved as presented.

MKSK has been hired to provide an update to the landscape plan which includes three new columns and plant material in the City Right-of-Way. The installation of the columns is on the 3/28/24 BZAP agenda. Since the landscape plan is intrinsically tied to the columns, the applicant has chosen to come to TPGC first to obtain feedback on the proposed landscape plan in the ROW. TPGC should then provide a recommendation to BZAP, including any desired conditions, with the understanding that while BZAP has the authority to approve the columns, they will defer to TPGC for final approval of the landscape plan in the ROW.

The request for the columns to be in the ROW is because there is a large mature Oak tree along the south property line and the applicant did not want to disturb the structural roots by placing the column outside of the ROW on the property. BZAP recently approved columns 12” from the sidewalk at 141 S. Drexel Ave with the condition that the landscape plan be approved by TPGC.

A boxwood and liriope hedge connect the two northern columns and the bed is located immediately behind the sidewalk. It is the City Staff recommendation to provide a twelve to twenty-four inches (12-24”) lawn strip immediately adjacent to the sidewalk so mulch and plant material will not obstruct pedestrian traffic. The two (2) beds around the columns flanking the driveway can extend to the sidewalk as that is the typology that exists throughout Bexley.

 There is a large existing bed that was present during the TPGR-21-3 review and still exists today. It is the City Staff recommendation to allow this bed to remain as is and continue to touch the sidewalk as it provides landscape screening to the north neighboring property.

A revised planting plan should be submitted to show any recommended adjustments and can be approved by City Staff.

The landscape improvements outside of the ROW are not subject to review by TPGC but it should be noted that they are not only in keeping with the original design intent approved under TPGR-21-3 but also increase the variety and layering of the plant material throughout the site.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Table – ‘the landscape plan for 394 S Columbia Ave. until there is a decision made from City Council.’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 5- 0 - passed.

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick

1. Arbor Day all April long:

No Discussion was held. The conversations will continue in April.

1. What is the Publicity/Communication plan from the City?
2. Mulch Volcano information roll out – how and when?
3. Bexley Public Library presentation: “Wise Trees” – April 10, 1:30 PM
4. Bexley Landmark Tree program – Sycamores
5. Tree Giveaway – 30ish trees – Northern Catalpa
6. Tree Planting at Jeffrey.
7. Bexley Bloomers Omelet Palooza on Arbor Day: what can we tie into that event?
8. One Earth: One Trillion Trees and a Fairy Village – April 20, 2023 – 10:00 to 1:00 – SCG –
9. Tour of Governor’s Residence and Grounds – May 1, 2024 – 10:30 AM
10. Bexley Magazine coverage. Can we include mulch informational flyer?
11. City Council Liaison – Troy Markham

6:00 PM - ADJOURNMENT