

**Minutes**  
**BEXLEY TREE AND PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
**Bexley City Council Chambers, Bexley, OH**

**1. Convening the Meeting:**

- A. Call to Order/Call the Roll – 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, Spencer Martin

- B. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed  
C. Approval of Minutes of Paril 27, 2024 – Mrs. Quintenz

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of April 17, 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,

- D. Additions to the Agenda – Mrs. Quintenz  
E. Announcements/Small Victories/Comments:  
a. Bexley In Bloom update – Barb Giller  
b. Ground Hogs, North Community Gardens; fresh produce pantry –  
Mary McMunn

Commission member, Mary McMunn, is wondering if there is a more permanent solution to keep Ground Hogs out of the gardens. A discussion regarding produce

stands and how other gardens maintain stands and if this is something the Gardeners here would be interested in organizing.

Bexley Bloomers: Volunteer attraction campaign launched; Visit new landing page at: [bexleybloomers.org](http://bexleybloomers.org)

- c. Professor Markham – Troy Markham, City Council Liaison

Council member, Markham, discussed Chestnut blight with the Tree Commission.

- d. Other

## 2. Conversations with Residents and Visitors

Nancy Marzella- 500 S Parkview Condo 507- The resident has concerns regarding the property that is going to be built at 2200 E Main. The concerns the residents would like to be addressed are regarding the care and maintenance of the property. They are wondering who will care for the property as it sits now, during the construction phase, once the project is complete, and how the property be maintained and cleaned up accordingly.

## 3. Staff Reports:

### a. Grant Archer, Urban Forester, Assistant Service Director

- 1. Plantings in Bellwood and Pleasant Ridge Medians

Native Ohio plant species will be installed in the medians along Bellwood Ave- Wine nine bark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) shrubs and Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*). Structure soil will also be added to the medians.

Eleven (11) Kindred Spirit Oak trees (*Quercus x warei*) will be planted in the medians along Pleasant Ridge and the ground cover is Stone Crop (*Crassulaceae*).

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the median planting along Pleasant Ridge and Bellwood .’

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,

## 2. Other

### **b. Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant**

1. Updates on 2200 East Main Street, Jason Hockstock, Continental Real Estate Trinity Apartments (2200 E. Main) – Construction Logistics meeting with neighbors scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 2 PM at Bexley City Hall. The conditions of approval related to the building elevation materials and samples, received a favorable recommendation from the ARB to BZAP and will be heard next on May23, at 6 PM. Other site and landscape items are still in process. Site mobilization and demolition is still on track for late spring/early summer.

2200 E Main: With BZAP's building-specific conditions met, Continental has submitted building and demolition plans which are currently under review. In the coming weeks, expect increased site activity including City of Columbus firefighters training (no live burns), non-profits removing old appliances and fixtures for reuse, and ultimately the arrival of large equipment for building demolition. A construction fence surrounding the site is also coming soon. Continental representatives hosted a neighbor meeting on May 14 to help answer demolition related questions for those living nearby. Other updates will be shared on the City's website and in the Bexley Blast: [bexley.org/2200-main](http://bexley.org/2200-main)

Demolition activity is coming soon to 2200 East Main, the site of the former Trinity Apartments. Over the next few weeks, expect to see increased activity at the site including City of Columbus firefighters using the old buildings for training (no live burns), non-profits removing old appliances and fixtures for reuse, and ultimately the arrival of large equipment for building demolition. A construction fence surrounding the site is also coming soon. Stay tuned for more updates as initial demolition and site utility work continues throughout the summer. For general project information check [here](#).

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the extension for the developer to present a landscape plan for the Pocket Park and other landscape plans the Commission needs to review for the 2200 E Main development. The plans will be presented at the September 2024 Tree Commission Meeting.’

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,

2. Update on role of Monette Friedlander

Monette Friedlander will be focusing more on residential landscape and would give updates to the Commission, but if there are issues with landscape plans, she will be reporting those to Code Enforcement.

3. Other

**c. Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley**

1. Design Process for unification of Columbia

City Council has approved the unification of Columbia. The Mayor has invited one member of the Tree Commission to be apart of a small working group to provide input for the plan for Columbia. If a member of the Tree Commission volunteers to be apart of the working group, they would need to step aside when it comes time to vote for the final plan.

Land use Strategy Workshop for ARB, BZAP, T&PGC – June 21, 2024

The workshop will give members the chance to provide ideas.

2. 2024 Bexley Landscape Design Projects – what’s on the drawing board; how do we add to the drawing board

The Mayor presented the design projects the City is working on.

3. Cassidy and Fifth updates

There are no updates to provide.

4. Other

**4. Old Business:**

**a. Review of “Arbor Day all April Long” activities:**

1. “Wise Trees” presented by photographers Len Jenshel and Diane Cook – BPL  
– Mary McMunn

The presentation was fun to attend. More of their should have been displayed throughout the library.

2. Arbor Day Tree Planting with Jeffrey Mansion Pre-schoolers and Mayor Kessler – Mayor, Mrs. Quintenz, Mrs. McMunn

The Pre-schoolers had a fun time attending the tree planting.

3. Mulch Volcano roll-out April 19 and April 20 - Mr. Archer

The roll-out was complete and went out with the mulch fundraiser. Contractors have also been notified. Tree Commission members would like more communication about mulch volcanos to be sent to residents.

4. Bexley Landmark Tree program – Stately Sycamores – Sheila Straub

Sixteen trees had been selected for the Landmark Tree program. They have started putting tags on the trees, should be complete by the end of the week. The goal for next year is better communication for those who won. Beech Trees are the 2025 Landmark tree.

5. Free Tree Giveaway – Mr. Archer

6. Earth and Arbor Day Festival, April 20, 2024, SCG – Mrs. McMunn, Mrs. Quintenz
7. Bexley Fairy Village programs – Celeste Williams

The children play with the fairy villages. They have so much fun!

8. Governor's Residence and Heritage Gardens Tour, May 1, 2024 – Mrs. Quintenz

The tour was filled, but more advertising for the tour next year.

9. Other

**b. Infill all tree vacancies in Bexley within three to five years: How are we going to do that?**

The goal is to infill all tree vacancies within 3 (three) to 5 (five) years. Once sites are identified, trees can be planted but it varies on the staffing and what is appropriate for the site.

**c. Municipal care and planting plan – Jim Wilson**

The goal for next month is to adjust and review the municipal care and planting plan.

**5. New Business:**

- a. What are our goals for Bexley's Arboretum? Mrs. Quintenz

Tree Commission members would like to see the stumps throughout the city to slowly disappear. Members would like to focus on smaller areas throughout the city and which areas are a priority.

Adjourn – Next meeting is Wednesday, June 19, 2024