**Minutes**

**Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM**

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

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

Roll Call:

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

Alternates: Barb Giller,

Absent:

Excused: Ahdra Young, Charlie Flower

Non-Voting Present: Matt Klingler, Spencer Martin, Ellen Bowden, Mayor Kessler, Grant Archer

1. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed

Barb Giller has been appointed to a voting member.

C. Approval of Minuting meetings of September 18, 2024 – Mrs. Quintenz

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of September 18, 2024 as

written and sent.’

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

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

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Ahdra Young, Charlie Flower

D. Additions to the agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

No new items to add to the agenda

1. **Review of Landscape Applications: Jim Wilson, Vice Chair and Karen Bokor, Staff Consultant**

A. No Reviews today

B. Slate Roof tutorial

 Karen Bokor will be presenting a Slate Roof Tutorial at City Hall on October 23, at 4:00-5:00pm

1. Bexley Historical Preservation Study Group Updates

No updates.

1. **Announcements/Small Victories: Mrs. Quintenz**
2. 2024 Bexley Landmark Trees Golf Cart Tour – Sheila Straub, Chair

Sheila Straub shared the 2024 Bexley Landmark Tree Golf Cart Tour. The attendance was good. The weather was beautiful, and the those who participated had a great time.

1. “Into the Woods” participation - Mary McMunn

The festival participation was good this year. Both the kids and adults seemed to have a good time.

1. Tree Protection scenarios

The Commission discussed different protection scenarios. The Commission talked about chain link fences because it is a sturdier material. Since there are different types of material being used, what is best practice and are there better options.

1. **Staff Reports:**

**A. Grant Archer: Bexley Urban Forester**

 1. City’s Fall Planting and Maintenance Plan – Broad, Parkview and South Bexley

 Yard Barbers used will be planting the tree’s for the City’s Fall planting. Door hangers are provided to residents and the door hangers also ask if the resident will water the tree. The door hangers asking residents to water does is not well received with residents.

 Twenty-nine (29) new trees to be planted on Parkview

 Thirty-two (32) new Oaks on Broad Street will be planted.

 2. Planting post a drought

Planting trees after a drought is a risk. Warranties do not cover replacement for not watering. The watering truck is used everyday to water flowers.

 3. Mulch Volcano elimination program – winter and spring “Bexley Times”;

 Door to Door drop; Mulch Sale distribution; meeting with contractors

 No new updates.

 4. Other

There are very few registeredlandscape contractors.

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

 1. Gantt Chart of both City and Tree Commission Projects

 Mayor Kessler provided an updated on current and upcoming projects.

 a. Stanbery Pillars and plantings in ROW

 No discussion was held.

 b. Drexel Circle walls rebuilt

 No discussion was held.

 c. Add calming circles on Gould

The Commission will discuss next month regarding the plant material in the medians along Gould.

 2. Land Use Strategy Public Meeting

At their regular meeting yesterday, the Land Use Strategy Commission was presented with the results of the real estate market analysis conducted by DiSalvo Development Advisors. The analysis provided the Commission with a deep dive into supply and demand for various end uses including restaurant, retail, boutique hotel, medical, and independent living. The Commission is also pursuing various maps and illustrations to include in the draft report with the help of OHM Advisors, the City’s planning consultant. With these tools, staff will work with Commission members to draft the report itself which we anticipate being introduced to Council in late January.

1. Montrose plantings

Mary McMunn shared her ideas regarding planting along Montrose. The are not a lot of opportunity along S Remington to plant trees in the area. The tree lawn in the area can support understory trees. The city has trees planted on the west side of the sidewalk.

 3. Cassady and Fifth Updates focusing on Delmar intersection

 4. Commonwealth Connector design process

The area will between the two parks will start demo here soon. The asphalt and the curb and bringing fill dirt and topsoil and creating a clean slate in that space before further development goes in. We will meet again to figure the long-term design might be. It could be fairly basic or it could be a little more advanced but it's not going to be an athletic field, it is going to be a passive space that brings people to the park. Similar to what is happening to the pond on the west side. We talk about one of the things about the pond and the arboretum feature: we have people engaging in Commonwealth Park that are not there for a specific program which we really haven't had a lot of before. This is going to be another opportunity to bring in more passive use of the space.

 5. Other

1. **Old Business:**
2. Return to reviewing/discussing Tree Planting and Maintenance Plan – Jim Wilson

The plan is to increase tree species and to plant more trees. The discussion will focus on the past practice, which is one tree species per street. Or is it more beneficial to have more than one tree species per street. A small study group has been meeting to discuss the pros and cons of monoculture. The master list for the street tree planting will also be reviewed and updated. There are spaces throughout the city where more trees could be planted, and the Commission discussed the infill list as well.

The street tree on Denver, ‘*Phellodendron Amurense’*, Amur Corktree, will need to be changed. The nurseries are no longer growing them.

1. Goals for the Arboretum – Additional Species and Education

There are a few streets to experiment with additional street trees. Charles street will soon be needing a street tree. Drexel was also discussed; the suggestion was to make sure the tree stays below the power line.

1. **New Business**
2. 2025 Arbor Festival – What are other cities are doing?

The City currently sponsors 35 events a year. Partner with The Jeffrey Woods festival for Arbor Day. There are other events the city hosts that provide opportunities to combine the both events. Other cities have a fall arbor fest.

 B. Brick Streets uncovered

 No discussion was held

 **7. Reports from:**

 A. City Council Liaison – Troy Markham

 B. Director of Building – Matt Klingler

 1. Updates on Monette Friedlander’s Installation Inspection progress

 2. Other

There had a few applicants for the landscape consultant positions. Matt is currently reviewing applications. One landscape application will be presented before the Tree Commission next month, 236 N Columbia.

In December, the chair and vice chair of all three boards will get together to discuss how their processes.

 **8. Adjourn**

 Next meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 2024