Minutes

BEXLEY TREE and PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM BEXLEY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BEXLEY, OHIO 43209

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

Roll Call:

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

Alternates: Ahdra Young

Absent:

Excused: Charlie Flowers, Celeste Williams,

Non-Voting Present: Mayor Kessler, Grant Archer, Matt Klingler, Troy Markham

* 1. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed

Alternate member, Ahdra Young has been appointed as a voting member.

* 1. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2024 – tabled

Jim Wilson made a motion to Table – ‘the minutes of December 18, 2024 as

written and sent.’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 8- 0 - passed.

For: Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Jim Wilson, Linda Zupnick, Mary McMunn, Ahdra Young

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Celeste Williams, Charlie Flowers,

* 1. Additions to the Agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

1. **Review of Landscape Applications: None**
2. **Residents Comments:**
3. **Announcements/Small Victories: Mrs. Quintenz**
   1. “Rooted in Bexley” 2025 programs – Mary McMunn

Mary McMunn presented programs for the 2025 year. “The Ark of Appalachia” will kick off the year, so far, eight-two (82) people have signed up. The Bexley Public Library is hosting, and a list of events are the library website.

February- the Newark mounds will be discussed

* 1. Bexley Community Gardens updates – Mary McMunn,

Registrations have opened up. There are thirteen (13) new gardeners. There is currently a waitlist for a garden plot.

* 1. 2024 summaries of “Bexley in Bloom” and “Trees for Bexley” campaigns – Mrs.

Quintenz

**Trees for Bexley-**

Thirty-seven thousand six-hundred and eighty-eight dollars ($37,688) have been raised with one- hundred and twenty-four dollars (124) donors have. The average of three hundred and four dollars ($304.00).

* 1. Other

Sheila Straub is the new president of The Community Foundation

Jim Wilson is the President of the Library Board

Mayor Kessler- Chairs the Columbus Regional ESCD

1. **Staff Reports:**
   1. **Grant Archer: Bexley Urban Forester/Assistant Service Director**

The Tree Commission will review the list of trees for Montrose Elementary and the discussion will continue in February.

The crews are currently working on stump grinding.

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

Mayor Kessler will be alternating the months he attends Tree Commission meeting. Matt Klingler will attend meetings when applications are going to be presented.

Landscape Design Consultant will attend when applications are being presented.

Grant Archer will attend every meeting

Spencer Martin will attend two meeting a year

Landuse Update: Document drafting has officially begun and staff are working with planning advisors OHM to develop illustrations for core focus areas. The Commission anticipates bringing a draft strategy to City Council in early 2025: [*https://bexley.org/landuse/*](https://bexley.org/landuse/)

1. **Old Business:**
   1. Co-Hatch agreement – Matt Klingler, Director, Building and Planning

Matt Klingler provided an update on the lack of protection for the Co-Hatch construction. Co-Hatch is writing a check to the ‘Trees for Bexely’ twenty-four (24) caliper inches at $100 per caliper inch.

* 1. Review of Tree Commission Ordinances Study Group – Mayor Kessler

A meeting was held regarding the study of Tree Commission Ordinances. The goal is to bring forward a draft Ordinance in four (4) months. The study group is not a decision-making body and not require to be open to the public.

* 1. Other

1. **New Business: Getting Organized for 2025**
   1. **Suggested goals:**
      1. Moving from monocultures to a limited variety of species per street – Charlie Flower, Ph.D.

No discussion was held.

* + 1. Planting and Maintenance provisions – Jim Wilson

Vice-Chair, Jim Wilson provided and update on the Maintenance Plan. The working group came together and discussed the planting behind the sidewalk.

Jim presented a ‘draft’ plan and requested feedback from Commission members. Some suggestions that had been discussed are set-backs, invasives species list, mulch volcanoes, plant material and permissions.

* + 1. Developing programs to bring residents onboard with tree plantings

A goal the Tree Commission had is to develop more education on trees for the residents to attend. A few suggestions, had been to reach out to the library, reach out to the schools for assistances as well. The flyer regarding mulch volcanos was distributed during the mulch 2024 sale. The goal is to educate and profit, and how to encourage residents to plant more trees on private property.

* + 1. Providing community education on trees – planting, pruning, mulching, watering, choosing –

Continue to hand out the flyer regarding mulch volcanos was distributed during the mulch 2024 sale. The tree give-away has its pros and cons, there are always residents who sign-up for the drawing and then they decide they do not want the tree.

* + 1. **Promoting the Arboretum: Jeffrey Woods Festival; All Things Arbor in April; Social Media**

The Arbor Day festival and events are currently in motion. The members are beginning to plan events throughout the month of April.

* 1. **Other**

1. **Reports from:**
   1. **City Council Liaison: Troy Markham**

Presented some fun facts regarding the Chinese Lacquer Tree.

* 1. **Other**

1. **Adjourn**

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 19, 2025.