# Minutes

**Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM**

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

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

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Celeste

Williams, Jim Wilson

Alternates:

Absent:

Excused: Barb Giller, Ellen Bowden, Charlie Flower, Larry Helman, Mary McMunn, Adhra Young,

Non-Voting Present: Grant Archer, Matt Klingler, Troy Markham, Monette Friedlander, Walter Rein, Mayor Kessler

* 1. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed

No alternates to appoint as voting member

* 1. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2025– Mrs. Quintenz

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve – ‘of March 26, 2025 as written and sent.’

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

For Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Celeste Williams, Jim Wilson

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Charlie Flower, Mary McMunn

* 1. Additions to the agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

Discussions have been added to the agenda and will be presented under. ‘Other’ additions will be to discuss the ‘Walkable Bexley’ findings and move both Grant and the Mayors report to the top

* 1. Other

Megan Meyer has been in touch with me and she has the overview of “Walkable Bexley Effects” study and she has come up or be drafted I guess a summary of this visit and she has sent it to Chair Quintenz.

A discussion regarding the monument at Drexel Circle and the removal of the mature Hornbeams. The Chair requested that members visit the site before the next meeting.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Table – ‘The discussion of the removal of the mature Hornbeams in Drexel Cirlce for June.’

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

For Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Celeste Williams, Jim Wilson

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Charlie Flower, Mary McMunn

The tree lawn around Montrose Elementary was briefly discussed. The chair asked member to walk the around the school and consider tree species to add to the fall planting list. A follow-up discussion will continue in June.

# Residents Comments:

A resident from 724 Francis, Linda Cob, brought to the Tree Commission her concerns with the median located on Main St. in front of the Christ Lutheran Church. The median acts a barrier and has asked Tree Commission to think about the safety issues it could cause by removing the median for a bus lane.

Resident, Joe Blake, from 872 College on behalf of “Bexley Habitat Triangle” which is a subcommittee of “Love Your Alley” which is a subcommittee of “Green Bexley” Bexley Habitat Triangle is focusing on one block between College and Pleasant Ridge, and have been removing invasive plants like honeysuckle and English ivy and replacing them with native plants that support our pollinators so this block should become a big like pollinator haven little corridor that supports bees, butterflies, and birds we just planted my yard this past weekend. I'm here to talk about “Tire Choice” I believe the Tree Commission in charge of the Hawthorne trees just west of “Tire Choice” and wanted to discuss options on a more natural landscape for this area. The gateway at College and Livingston is currently under review for a re-design. Staff Consultant, Elena Andrews will reach out to the resident to hear some of the ideas.

1. **Old Business:**
   1. Updated Tree planting and maintenance guidelines – Jim Wilson, Vice Chair

Vice Chair, Jim Wilson, had reviewed the changes he made for Tree planting and maintenance guidelines. The guidelines will need council approval.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘ The changes and edits made to the Tree planting guidleines.’

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

For Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Celeste Williams, Jim Wilson

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Charlie Flower, Mary McMunn

* 1. Framework for evaluating/reviewing landscape applications: Mrs. Quintenz

A discussion was held on the framework for evaluating landscape applications so we have a matrix so just like the year big time as you know we've been working towards having some sort of predictable way to evaluate landscape.

* 1. Enforcing Mulch Ordinance – Matt Klingler, Director of Building and Planning

Members of the Tree Commission are encouraged to either email Code enforcement photos of mulch volcanoes or report the mulch volcanoes online through the “Bexley Base”

# Landscape Applications:

* 1. **T**PGC 25-4 Bexley Police Station Landscape Review: Elena Andrews, Landscape Design Staff Consultant, City of Bexley

Elena Andrews presented the landscape plan for 559 N Cassingham

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| --- |
| City in-house Landscape Plan  - Existing plant material consists of numerous overgrown and declining woody plants. Much the current landscape can be considered in fair to poor condition.  - Per Landscape Plan, proposed plantings for this project consist of site and space appropriate plant material. New plantings in maturity will provide a net increase to the site’s canopy cover. Plant selections are hardy and should provide a clean, attractive, and utilitarian landscape for the property.  - Evergreen garden is a great addition and provides a fun way to introduce numerous species into a relatively small space. This garden, situated at the west end of the property, will also provide both a visual buffer as well as a nice aesthetic backdrop to the neighboring community garden.  - Recommend approval of Landscape Plan as submitted. |

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘The landscape plan for 559 N Cassingham as presented .’

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

For Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Celeste Williams, Jim Wilson

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Charlie Flower, Mary McMunn

* 1. TPGC 25-3 Bexley Skate Park and Pedestrian Bridge at Schneider Park Landscape Review: Elena Andrews, Landscape Design Staff Consultant, City of Bexley

Elena Andrews presented the landscape plan for Bexley Skate Park and Pedestrian Bridge at Schneider Park Landscape

City in-house Landscape Plan

- Per Landscape Plan, proposed plantings for this project consist of site and space appropriate

plant material. Proposed plantings also consist of hardy and lower maintenance selections,

important due to the nature of the use of the space once completed. Plantings will provide a net

increase to the site’s green spaces.

- Recommend approval of Landscape Plan as submitted.

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve – ‘The landscape plan for the Bexley Skate Park and Pedestrian Bridge at Schneider Park Landscape as presented .’

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

For Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Celeste Williams, Jim Wilson

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Charlie Flower, Mary McMunn

* 1. TPGC 25-5 Wardrobe Therapy, 2463 Main Street, Landscape Review: Ryan Brothers

A landscape designer from Ryan Brothers Landscape, Pat Ryan, presented the Landscape plan.

Existing building on the property was under renovation at time of site visit. Existing landscape in front of building facing E. Main St. consists of a mix of woody and herbaceous landscape plants, in fair to good conditions but largely unremarkable. Proposed plantings for this area consist of site and space appropriate plant material. Preservation of some of the existing Redbuds, as indicated in the landscape plan, will add a good sense of immediate maturity to the new landscape and help to retain canopy cover. Proper pruning of the remaining Redbuds will help to present a cleaner finished product, and is already specified in the Landscape Plan.

- There is one street tree (London Plane, Platanus sp.) in the lawn strip immediately adjacent to the work site. As this tree is in close proximity to work that will be performed as indicated in the Landscape Plan, a simple but sufficient fence should be erected around the root zone of the tree to mitigate soil compaction and incidental contact with the tree’s trunk or root flare from vehicles and/or equipment.

- Recommend approval of Landscape Plan as submitted pending the addition of verbiage for

tree/root zone protection fencing as described above erected prior to the start of any work and remaining in place throughout the duration of the project.

The City of Bexley Tree & Public Garden Commission took the following actions at this meeting:

App No: TPGC-25-5

Address: 2463 E Main

Applicant: Ryan Brothers Landscaping

Owner: Elizabeth Bean Smith

Request: The applicant is seeking a recommendation for a Certificate of Appropriateness to the

Board of Zoning and Planning of the Landscape application.

Motion #1: The following motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mrs. Straub.

The findings and decisions of the Board, as stated by Matt Klingler: Based upon the

testimony presented, the Tree & Public Garden Commission finds it appropriate to

recommend this application to BZAP with the following conditions:

1. The applicant provides an updated landscape plan showing the removal of some of

the Japanese Anemone and coral bells substituting annuals.

2. The applicant provides tree protection for the existing red buds and the City’s trees

in the right of way.

The applicant agreed to the proposed findings and decision of the Board.

VOTE: All Members voted in favor.

RESULT: Motion PASSES. Application is recommended as conditioned.

Staff Certification: Recorded in the Official Journal this 21st day of March, 2025.

* 1. Commonwealth Park Connector: Landscape Design Options: Elena Andrews, Landscape Design Staff Consultant, City of Bexley

Elena Andrews presented 3- options for the Commonwealth Park Connector before the Tree Commission to review.

# If time allows: Staff reports:

* 1. Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley
  2. Grant Archer, City Forester
  3. Walter Reins, Tree and Public Gardens Commission staff consultant
  4. Troy Markham, City Council Liaison to Tree Commission
  5. Announcements:

1. Adjourn

# Next meeting is Wednesday, June 18, 2025. No meeting in July.