**Minutes**

**Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission**

**Wednesday, June 18 2025 – 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: Mary McMun, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Celeste Williams

Alternates: Adhra Young

Absent:

Excused: Jim Wilson, Charlie Flower,

Non-Voting Present: Grant Archer, Matt Klingler, Troy Markham, Barb Giller, Walter Rein, Mayor Kessler, Megan Meyer

1. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed

Adhra Young has been appointed as a voting member.

C. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2025– Mrs. Quintenz

 Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve – ‘of May 21, 2025 as written and sent.’

Motion seconded by Linda Zupnick Vote 6 - 0 - passed.

For: Mary McMun, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Adhra Young, Celeste Williams,

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Jim Wilson, Charlie Flower

D. Additions to the agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

 Add Matt Klingler to present a ‘Staff Report’ if time allows.

 ++++ SPECIAL INVITATION from Megan Meyer, Director of ++++

Administration and Development, City of Bexley, Bexley, OH

Megan Meyer, Director of Administration and Development Present the Bus Rapid Transit for before the Tree and Public Garden Commission. The full presentation can be found by following the link [https://bexley.org/meetings/#past-meetings](https://bexley.org/meetings/%23past-meetings)

E. Review of Zoom Policy for Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission members and alternates: Mrs. Quintenz

Chair Quintenz provided a policy update for the Tree Commission members to review.

Generally, members of the Tree and Public Gardens Commission will attend meetings in-person. However, recognizing that certain unexpected issues may arise and/or an emergency meeting may be scheduled making in-person attendance difficult, members of the Tree and Public Gardens Commission may hold, conduct, and attend meetings “virtually” consistent with this Policy. More specifically, members may hold, conduct, and/or attend meetings by means of video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, provided the virtual meeting complies with this Policy, including any “Notice” and “Public Access” provision included in this Policy.

For the full virtual meeting policy, please see the attachments located in the 2025-06-18 Tree and Public Gardens Commission folder [https://bexley.org/meetings/#past-meetings](https://bexley.org/meetings/%23past-meetings)

Linda Zupnick made a motion to Approve – ‘the Zoom Virtual Meeting Policy for Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission.’

Motion seconded by Shelia Straub Vote 6 - 0 - passed.

For: Mary McMun, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Adhra Young, Celeste Williams

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Jim Wilson, Charlie Flower

Barb Giller has been appointed as a voting Member

1. **Residents Comments:**
2. **Old Business:**
3. Montrose Perimeter 2025 Tree Planting in ROW: Ahdra Young, Grant Archer

Ahdra Young, provided a review for tree planting around Montrose

Summary:

Several spots open in tree berm hold potential for new material. Also present are a few trees that are well past their prime and might be candidates for removal. Two new Lindens planted very recently. Also a few opportunities for the school to investigate, particularly to replace missing/removed specimens.

Key:

· Green star (2) – recent plantings

· Yellow circle (12) – possible additions

· Red X (4) –possible removals

· Blue circle (3) – possible additions (on school property)

Remington (East) side:

Two new Linden trees have recently been planted. These are a great street tree with a lovely shape, as well as other ornamental features. The specimen marked for removal on the drawing is a Pear tree, likely a Callery. Besides its invasive status/messiness, the tree is misshapen and has at least one dead branch. This is also a prime location and would benefit from a specimen with seasonal ornamental features. Suggestion: Wildfire Black Gums flanking the entrance to the playground, following removal of the Pyrus. These are a smaller Black Gum, and would reference the existing specimen on the SW corner of the lot. Two spots are open that face the parking area, Suggestion: Lindens or Smoketrees, if variety is desired. In the final open spot, some variety in fall color against the background of Tuliptrees, Sugar Maples, a Pin Oak and Honeylocusts (so much yellow!) is warranted. Suggestion: Smoketree.

Mound (South) side:

Of note, the power line runs above the tree berm on this side of the lot. Existing specimens (Eastern Redbuds, a Crabtree and a Black Gum) are for the most part very mature and have been significantly pruned. The Redbuds are past their prime, while the remaining Crabapple is doing well. The Black Gum appears mostly well, if a bit unequally pruned due to power line placement. That said, I see at least four spots that seem ready for additions, especially if some variety in leaf shape and fall color could be introduced against the back drop of Sugar Maples. Suggestion: Smoketrees or Flowering Dogwoods.

Montrose (West) side:

Moving from South to North, there is a vacant spot at the corner with high visibility. Suggestion: Forest Pansy Redbud. Continuing past a Golden Raintree and two London Plane Trees, shade from the hot afternoon sun could be provided to the playground and sitting areas on this side. Suggestion: Thornless Honeylocust (these would also reference the two Honeylocusts in the berm on the SE side of the lot). Between these two spots, a damaged and lopsided Hedge Maple should possibly be removed. The lovely Tartar Maple was a surprise and looks striking as a fall specimen in particular. The final open location sits between the crosswalk and a lovely Crabapple. Suggestion: Forest Pansy Redbud.

 B. Framework for evaluating/reviewing landscape applications: Mrs. Quintenz

 C. Education and Enforcing Mulch Ordinance – Matt Klingler,

 Director of Building and Planning

 D. NW corner of Drexel Circle: War Monument and Growing Hornbeams: Mrs. Quintenz

 A discussion was held regarding the War Monument at Drexel circle and if it is possible to move the structure. The Commission also discussed the tree canopy in the area and how to infill trees.

1. **Landscape Applications:**
2. **T**PGC 25-1\_2551 East Broad Street

Proposed plantings along west side of property coincide with recent fence installation. Current landscape plan calls for the planting of (5) ‘Emerald Green’ Arborviate and (4) ornamental grasses of unspecified species and cultivar. Proposed plantings are for the purpose of screening approx. 50’ of fence, from SW corner of fence, heading north and ending at the south drip line of the (3) existing trees along west side of residence.

As this is a west facing section of the landscape, ‘Emerald Green’ Arborvitae are an appropriate species for the site, and are commonly used in the application of providing a green screen, either paired with a fence or as a stand alone screening option. However, the ornamental grasses proposed for this area raise some concerns. Based on the landscape plan provided and the details not included, it is assumed at this time that the grasses would be a species and cultivar that grows to several feet or more in height. Ornamental grasses of this nature are often messy plants at best, with dead foliage persisting through the winter months, often falling over and separating from the base. Due to this location's proximity to a City sidewalk, it is recommended that larger ornamental grasses be removed from the landscape plan. If ‘Emerald Green’ Arborvitae are planted along the fence line, proper spacing for this species suggests a placement of at least 3’ from the fence (measured from center of plant) as well as planting on 3’ centers (3’ from center to center of each plant). Based on this spacing, approximately (15) trees would be needed to provide a suitable screen along the fence at mature size, though a minimum of (12) trees will suffice if spaced slightly further apart. With the row of Arborvitae 3’ from the fence, there is room for a row of smaller ornamental grasses (2-3’ mature size) or other herbaceous perennial of smaller size in front of the Arborvitae if desired without encroaching on the sidewalk, however this is not necessary for satisfying the landscaping requirements that pertain to the fence installation.

A single row of ‘Emerald Green’ Arborvitae along the fence, with proper spacing and quantity as described above, would provide a clean, simple, and effective landscape for this area. - Recommend approval of landscape plan pending the following changes:

Ornamental grasses be removed from the landscape plan - Quantity of ‘Emerald Green’ Arborvitae be increased to a minimum of (12), maximum of (15), based on installation of trees of 5-6’ height (which is a common planting height and available size in the nursery) and industry standard spacing of 3’ on centers for this species and cultivar.

1. TPGC 25-7\_33 North Gould

Walter Reins, landscape consultant, present the review before the Commission.

The existing landscape is effectively void of any woody tree or shrub plantings. Proposed landscape plan consists of site and size appropriate plant material, with a suitable mix of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, ornamental trees, and herbaceous perennials. As this property is relatively small, the proposed landscape plan is appropriate for the space, providing a clean landscape bed across the front of the home that should prove to be low maintenance while also adding curb appeal, as well as retaining some lawn area behind/around the home for private use.

 The Syringa “Ivory Silk” Japanese Tree Lilac is a welcomed, small flowering tree for the front landscape in the proposed location south of the driveway. A second matching tree of the same species and size, located similarly close to the sidewalk and on the north side of the driveway, would provide a “tree-lined street” feeling to the property where street trees currently do not exist. I am noting this as a suggestion for increasing the canopy of the property, but not a strong recommendation, as the design and quantity of plant material is adequate for this property as presented.

Mary McMunn made a motion to Approve – ‘Request: The applicant is seeking approval of the landscape plan as conditioned by the

Architectural Review Board.

Motion #1: The following motion was made by Mary McMunn and seconded by Celeste Williams.

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

grant a certificate of appropriateness with the following conditions:

1. Barberry be replaced with something non invasive

2. An additional appropriate tree be added to the north side of the property assuming

that it can be planted without interfering with utilities.

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

VOTE: All Members voted in favor.

RESULT: Motion PASSES. Application is approved as conditioned.’

Motion seconded by Celeste Williams Vote 6 - 0 - passed.

For: Mary McMun, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Adhra Young, Celeste Williams, Barb Giller

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Jim Wilson, Charlie Flower

1. TPGC 25- 4\_2529 East Broad Street

- Continuing/revisiting fence installation and associated plantings as originally addressed in TPGR-24-1 ROW Plantings. Landscape Plan appears to have been modified since 2024 submission. Substitution of Inkberry along Cassady Ave side of property in place of Boxwood sp. is acceptable, though Inkberry can be a temperamental plant in Central Ohio. Per Landscape Plan, 22 Inkberry (Ilex glabra ‘Shamrock’) may fall short of providing adequate screening of fence, as Inkberry often do not achieve stated mature sizes due to issues with soil pH and general soil conditions in Central Ohio. Also, if alternating plantings with perennials, as stated in previous review, an incomplete screening will be present for several months out of the year during the dormant season. Recommend increasing the planting count to 27, planting on 4’ centers instead of 5’ centers, based on the total linear feet to be covered per landscape plan.

- Proposed Hydrangea plantings flanking east side gate are satisfactory for the area and will add some variety to the new landscape.

- Also, to be noted, arborvitae that are included on the Landscape Plan have already been planted. Pertaining to the arborvitae specifically, homeowner may notice a discrepancy in growth rate in subsequent years between the trees located under the dripline of adjacent Red Oak and the trees located outside of the dripline. Arborvitae are typically a sun-loving species, and prefer adequate moisture throughout the year. Arborvitae plantings, in fact most over evergreen plantings located under the canopy of a large shade tree often struggle to properly establish and thrive due to inadequate levels of sunlight as well as significant root competition for water and necessary nutrients.

- City trees located along Cassady Ave side of property should be protected throughout the duration of the fence and landscape installation. Protection should include measures to avoid mechanical damage to trunks of trees as well as sectioning off the critical root zones of trees to prevent soil compaction.

- Recommend approval of landscape plan on condition that Inkberry be planted on 4’ centers to ensure proper screening of fence in maturity, 27 plants based on site measurements as submitted, and proper tree protection be installed and maintained around Cassady Ave city trees for duration of fence and landscape installations.

Mary McMunn made a motion to Approve – ‘to table the Landscape for 2529 E Broad.’

Motion seconded by Sheila Straub Vote 6 - 0 - passed.

For: Mary McMun, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Linda Zupnick, Adhra Young, Celeste Williams

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Jim Wilson, Charlie Flower

1. TPGC 25-2\_49 South Parkview

- The portion of the property for which this review applies (across front of home and throughout front yard landscape) currently contains mature landscaping with numerous evergreen hedges, some deciduous plant material, and a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees. The current landscape also frames the front of the home, with a concentration of plantings on the south and north ends of the yard.

- (2) City trees, Acer (maple) spp., exist in the lawn strip in front of the home, adjacent to the street. Both trees are showing signs of significant decline throughout their canopies, with visible thinning of canopies and tip dieback/decline.

- The proposed Landscape Plan consists of a variety of site and size appropriate plant material. Proposed smaller trees for the south end of the property make use of the existing understory conditions that are present, adding/replacing canopy in a way that will not compete with the existing mature trees located on the neighboring property to the south, immediately adjacent to the proposed landscape. Plantings on the north end of the plan make use of the space available while providing visual screening to the proposed parking space along the driveway without compromising the view of the home.

- Per phone conversation on 6/6/25 with Steven Maravich, RLA for this project, an existing hedge across the front of the home located along the east side of the existing walkway in front of the home, is to be retained in the new landscape plan. Steven also expressed the intent with the new landscape to retain the “framed” appearance of the home, highlighting and accentuating the home into the overall aesthetic of the property when viewed from the street. Also mentioned during the phone conversation was the desire/willingness on the part of the homeowner to contribute monetarily to larger trees being planted in the lawn strip as part of this project as well as continuing the proposed irrigation into the lawn strip if the City is in agreement with removal and replacement of the existing, declining trees.

- Recommend approval of landscape plan as submitted, with possible amendments pertaining to street tree removal and replacement, and installation of irrigation in lawn strip, pending TPGC discussion.

Mary Mcmunn made a motion to Approve – ‘The landscape 49 S Parkview as presented.’

Motion seconded by Celeste Williams Vote 6 - 0 - passed.

For: Mary McMunn, Susan Quintenz, Sheila Straub, Adhra Young, Barb Giller, Celeste Williams,

Against: Linda Zupnick

Abstain:

Absent: Jim Wilson, Charlie Flower

1. **If time allows:**

 **Staff reports:**

 A. Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley, Pending Ordinances

 B. Grant Archer, City Forester

 C. Walter Reins, Tree and Public Gardens Commission staff consultant

 D. Troy Markham, City Council Liaison to Tree Commission

 E. Other

1. Adjourn
2. **Next meeting is Wednesday, August 20, 2025. No meeting in July.**