**Minutes**

**BEXLEY TREE AND PUBLIC GARDENS COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Bexley City Council Chambers, Bexley, OH**

1. **Convening the Meeting:**
2. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Jim Wilson, Vice-Chair

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Sheila Straub, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Charlie Flowers

Alternates: Barb Giller, Adhra Young

Absent:

Excused: Susan Quintenz

Non-Voting Present: Mayor Kessler, Grant Archer, Marc Fishel, Karen Bokor, Matt Klinger

1. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed

Charlie Flowers has been appointed as voting member.

1. Introductions of new members and staff
2. Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2024 – Mr. Wilson

Shelia Straub made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of June 26, 2024 as

written and sent.’

Motion seconded by Mary McMunn Vote 6 - 0 - passed.

For: Sheila Straub, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Charlie Flowers

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Susan Quintenz

1. Additions to the Agenda – Mr. Wilson

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve – ‘the agenda for the August 21, 2024 meeting.’

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

For: Sheila Straub, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Charlie Flowers

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Susan Quintenz

1. **Review of Landscape Applications: Jim Wilson, Vice Chair:**
2. TPGC 24-4 202 S. Columbia revised landscaping plan

202 South Columbia Avenue

Landscape Design Changes

Clinton Calhoun

Oakland Nursery

8/16/2024

**Foundation Landscapes**

The primary difference between the original design and new is a greater density of shrubs and ornamental trees. The original plan was relatively simple with a linear organization. The new design uses a far greater quantity of shrubs and follows a more complex, curvilinear pattern, focusing on layering and density. The front foundation landscape shows the most change, with a complex, interwoven boxwood parterre, 4 ornamental cherry trees, a weeping white pine, and irregular flagstone walkways set into Mazus and Phlox groundcovers.

**The rear entry**

(east foundation) utilizes more linear/layered evergreen elements but is complementary to the more complex portions of the landscape. The south foundation focuses on simple, evergreen

elements, considering the distance between the new construction and existing driveway is very

limited. A simplified version of the boxwood parterre theme will be added to the existing pool house landscape.

**Existing Trees**

A thorough tree preservation plan was put in place to maintain as many existing

trees as possible. Two massive oak trees, several medium sized oak trees, dozens of pines and

spruces, and various other smaller ornamental trees were preserved with the assistance of an

arborist consultant. All appear healthy and will be regularly maintained for health and appearance. The homeowner is open to adding more canopy trees as space allows. Any trees removed from the tree lawn during construction will be replaced.

**Hardscape**

The driveway, back access walkway, and front access walkway all remain relatively

equal square footage to the original design. The front walkway shows the most change. The new

front walkway follows a curved design, and the form of the front foundation landscape and walkway are now complementary. Irregular limestone flagstone, sourced from the same quarry as the house façade and mortared on concrete, will be used for all new hardscape surfaces.

**Turf**

The amount of lawn did not change significantly from the original proposal, beside the

increase in depth of the front foundation landscape.

**Water Feature**

A small, low profile water feature will be added to the south foundation of the

house. This will be visible primarily from the elevated patio/screened porch.

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve – ‘the revised landscaping plan for 202 S Columbia has been approved as presented.’

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

For: Sheila Straub, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Charlie Flowers

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Susan Quintenz

1. **Announcements and Small Victories –**
2. Bexley In Bloom update – Barb Giller
3. Hanging Baskets – Barb Giller

The hanging baskets along Main Street look good.

1. Bexley Bloomers –Barb Giller/Mary McMunn

The Bexley Bloomers have donated four-hundred and ninety-seven (497 hrs.) of time to weeding. The Bexley Bloomers reached out to commercial businesses to see if they wanted to volunteer.

1. Community Gardens – Mary McMunn

The community gardens have donated eight hundred and seven-one pounds (871 lbs.) of food had been donate to the Food Pantry.

1. Master Gardeners Program – Mary McMunn

There were fifty (50) master gardeners who had attended the program regarding the Bexley Arboretum. The program was held at the Bexley Public Library.

1. Professor Markham – Troy Markham, City Council Liaison

No discussion was held

1. **Conversations with Residents and Visitors**

No discussion was held.

1. **Staff Reports:**
2. **Grant Archer, Urban Forester, Assistant Service Director**

The crews have been watering, weed control, and are still working on the pruning list.

1. **Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley**
2. Update on staff consultant

The goal is to have a landscape staff consultant in September.

1. Update on City projects

Columbia revised landscaping plan

**2200 E Main Project**

* + The building has been demolished, including tree removals, and the contractor is beginning Civil/utilities work. Lane closures & traffic rerouting toward the end of August for Sanitary tie ins on Main St.
  + Lane closures & traffic rerouting toward the middle of October for Sanitary tie ins on Main St.
  + Waiting on the finalized building & foundation drawings to be submitted.

**Skate Park**

* The Board of Controls approved the selection of the Hunger Skatepark bid for construction of the new Bexley Skate Park at Schneider Park.
* We will continue to work with Hunger to turn conceptual drawings into CD for the construction of the project. While there is still some design work to be done, we are confident we will have a new community skatepark in 2025.

**Commonwealth Folies**

* The follies at Commonwealth are nearly complete. We believe the follies should be completed in the next couple of weeks. Power has been restored to the site and finishing touches are being put on the facilities.
* The Commonwealth Unification Committee met last week to begin discussing the design plans for the unification of Commonwealth Park. In the meantime, work will be done to remove much of the existing Columbia Road and curb to prep the site to receive fill dirt, likely from the 2200 East Main Project.
* The electric robotic mower has been ordered for Commonwealth East and will be installed in early September. The mower will maintain the Commonwealth East athletic field and will provide a proof of concept for expansion of the program to Commonwealth West.

1. Other
2. **Old Business:**
3. Fall planting
   1. Infill all tree vacancies on Broad and Parkview this Fall: How are we going to do that?

Parkview Ave -Sugar Maples will be planted along the plant

Broad St.- Sugar Maples will be planted along Broad St.

There will be fall tree give away will be advertised. Thirty (30) trees will be given away and planted in the fall. Small ornamental trees do not provide canopy coverage.

The Tree Commission was asked to potentially change the street tree along the east side of College Ave and the East side of Drexel Ave. Grant Archer has recommended a new tree species for both areas to be discussed. The dead trees in the Drexel medians will be replaced in the fall.

1. Municipal care and planting plan – Jim Wilson
2. Background discussion on species selection
   1. Current street tree list – Grant Archer

A current street tree list has been provided by Grant for the Commission to review.

* 1. Data available regarding species – Charlie Flowers

The Tree Commission Members have will set up a working group to review the street tree specie list. The goal is to review and makes changes as the Commission see fit.

1. Date for a special meeting
2. **New Business:**
3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2024-25

Mary McMunn made a motion to Approve – ‘To re-elect the Chair of the Tree and Public Gardens Commission to Susan Quintenz and to re-elect Jim Wilson as Vice-Chair to the Tree and Public Garden Commission.’

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

For: Sheila Straub, Celeste Williams, Mary McMunn, Linda Zupnick, Jim Wilson, Charlie Flowers

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Susan Quintenz

Adjourn – Next meeting is Wednesday, September 18, 2024