**Minutes**

**Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission**

**Wednesday, February 19, 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: Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Charlie Flower, Celeste Williams

Alternates:

Absent:

Excused: Mary McMunn, Jim Wilson, Barb Giller, Ellen Bowden, Adhra Young

Non-Voting Present: Grant Archer, Matt Klingler, Troy Markham,Monette Friedlander

1. Verify a quorum and appoint alternates as needed

No alternates were appointed as a voting member.

C. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2024, and January 15, 2025 – Mrs. Quintenz

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve – ‘the minutes of December 18, 2024 and January 15, 2025’

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

For: Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Charlie Flower, Celeste Williams

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Mary McMunn, Jim Wilson, Barb Giller, Ellen Bowden, Adhra Young

D. Additions to the agenda – Mrs. Quintenz

No new items to add to the agenda.

1. **Review of Landscape Applications: Jim Wilson -**

A. No applications

No applications to review.

1. **Residents Comments:**

No resident comments

1. **Announcements/Small Victories: Mrs. Quintenz**
2. “2025 Rooted in Bexley” programs at Bexley Public Library:

a. March 5, 2025 – 1:15 PM – Zoe Schlanger - “The Light Eaters”

**"Rooted in Bexley**" programs at the Bexley Public Library continue on **Wednesday, March 5 at 1:15.**  **Zoe Schlanger, NYT bestselling author of "The Light Eaters," is the headliner**. She is a big deal. There are about **five seats left out of 160.**  If you want to register, please go immediately to [http://www.bexleylibrary.org/events](http://www.bexleylibrary.com/events)   Also, the program will begin with an exciting announcement regarding the multifaceted book collection of former First Lady of Ohio, Hope Taft.

b. April 23, 2025 – 1:00 PM – Amy Stewart - “The Tree Collectors”

c. April 23, 2025 – 6:00 PM – Amy Stewart - “The Drunken Botanist”

Fundraiser at 107 N Ashbourne for the BPL Author Series at the BCF

B. Sunday, April 23, 2025 – 3:00 to 4:30 PM – New resident reception – Jeffrey

Tree Commission table will focus on mulch

1. Moving March meeting to March 26, 2025, from March 19, 2025.

Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve – ‘Moving March meeting to March 26, 2025, from March 19, 2025’

Motion seconded by Charlie Flowers Vote 5- 0 - passed.

For: Sheila Straub, Susan Quintenz, Linda Zupnick, Charlie Flower, Celeste Williams

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Mary McMunn, Jim Wilson, Barb Giller, Ellen Bowden, Adhra Young

D. Professor Markham celebrates a BIRTHDAY!

1. **Staff Reports:**

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

1. Urban Forestry priorities for February/March

The crews are currently working on stump grinding.

2. Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

The tree giveaway will take place in the fall. A discussion was held to try and have Franklin County Soil and Water offer a seminar to resident regarding tree planting and care.

3. Fair Avenue rehab updates

The trees in the median have been removed. A new landscape plan is currently being drafted.

**B. Matt Klinger, Director of Building and Planning**

1. How does your planning responsibility intersect with the work and goals of Tree Commission?

The land use strategy is almost complete. The goal is to have updated Main Street guidelines complete this year.

2. Process re: Installations

2200 E Main: The concrete podium is on-going. Soon there will be a temporary crane setup near Main St. and the north lane will be closed during the week. • Project Completion (estimated): Summer 2026

Co Hatch: Final finishes and elevator is being completed. Final Target Completion 3/15/2025

St. Charles: Began construction on the Chapel renovation project. Continuing interior construction on the Brotherhood Center Target completion: June 2025

420 N Cassady & 2300 Livingston: Both projects passed BZAP for variances at the last meeting. They are now going back to ARB this week for review, and recommendation for certificate of appropriateness

**C. Monette Friedlander, Staff Consultant**

1. Review and updates of approved installed projects

There are a total 41 residential projects. There are 16 residential projects left pending and left to be approved.

2. Process for compliance

The process for residents who are not in compliance with the approved landscape plan. If the staff consultant sees issues, Monette will reach out first to try and get answers. If there has been no answer, Monette will then pass along to Code Enforcement.

1. **Old Business:**
2. Spring Mulch Educational Program – review of ordinance, who is in charge

No discussion was held

1. Joint Commission and City meeting – Topics for discussion – Mrs. Quintenz

Chair Quintenz requested topics for the joint commission meeting.

C. Jeffrey Woods Festival – March 1, 2025 – 10:00 – 1:00 PM – help needed

**March 1, 2025:**The maple sap is running and will be boiling during the annual Jeffrey Woods Festival this Saturday. Additional outdoorsy activities which highlight trees and nature have been layered into the Festival. There will be "things to do" for folks from 3 to 93. Scheduled events like a woodland walk, bird walk, crafts, ax sharpening are all happening near the pool parking lot. Celeste has even created an owl adventure.  Who is coming?  [www.bexley.org/jeffreywoodsfest/](http://www.bexley.org/jeffreywoodsfest/)

D. Celebrating Arbor Day All April Long:

A. “The Bexley Times” – pending articles.

Articles are being prepared for ‘The Bexlet Times.’ The Commission will have four pages to fill about trees and the upcoming Arbor Day events.

A. “Giants Rising” - Documentary movie at the Drexel, April 15 or 16 at 6

**April 15, 2025, 6:00 PM - FREE**showing of **"Giants Rising: The Secrets and Superpowers of Redwoods"** at the Drexel Theater. **Consider being a greeter to welcome folks to the Drexel** **and this outstanding movie which was previewed at the Naples Film Festival by Ellen Bowden.**

Filmed in California, ***Giants Rising*** is an award-winning documentary which brings a global perspective to Bexley's other Arbor month programming. April is not just an opportunity to learn more about the Bexley Arboretum, but to consider the larger ecosystem.  Preserving legacy trees (like our redwoods) impacts everyone, everywhere, every day.

B. Jeffrey Mansion tree plantings – Date – TBD

C. Arbor Day Author – Amy Stewart at BPL, April 23, 2025, 1:00 PM

D. “The Drunken Botanist” fundraiser for BPL fund at BCF, 107 N Ashbourne

**April 23, 2025, 1:00 PM** - **Hosted by Mayor Kessler, our featured Arbor Month Author is Amy Stewart.**  Known for her NYT bestseller "The Drunken Botanist", **Ms. Stewart's newest book "The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession"**brings us fifty captivating stories of people who spend their lives in pursuit of rare and wonderful trees. A tidbit: One of the Tree Collectors profiled, Ben Askrem of Aurora, Ohio, was a colleague of Grant Archer's when they both worked for Canal Winchester.   Register at <http://www.bexleylibrary.org/events>  **Consider being a greeter to welcome guests to this program.**

D. Governor’s Residence & Heritage Garden Tour – May 7, 2025, 10:30 AM

E. Bexley Landmark Tree nomination/designation - Sheila Straub

The White Oak is the tree for the Bexley Landmark Tree nomination. Members and residents are all welcome to nominate a White Oak Tree within the City.

F. Bexley Fairy Village – Celeste Williams

Celeste Williams has set-up a few activities held at the Fairy Gardens.

G. Thursday, May 1, 2025 – 2025 Bexley Bloomers Kick-off

1. **New Business**
2. Workshop re: Roosevelt Medians rehab – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 6 to 7 PM, Bexley City Hall

A letter has been sent out to the resident who live around the medians to ask for their input and opinions regarding the design.

**8. Reports from:**

A. City Council Liaison – Troy Markham

**8. Adjourn**

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 19, 2025 – 4:00 PM

The March meeting of the **Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission** has been **moved**from Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM to accommodate the Bexley Schools spring break schedule.