



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 18, 2019**  
**04:00 pm**

These minutes are intended to be interactive minutes, referencing video and audio recordings hosted at [www.bexley.org](http://www.bexley.org).  
To view and listen to the context behind the decisions taken at this meeting, please visit [www.bexley.org/meetings](http://www.bexley.org/meetings).

**1. Convening the Meeting:**

a. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Susan Quintenz, Chair

1. Establish a quorum – Jim out; Dave will be late. Appoint Mollie and Barb as alternates.

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:** Susan Quintenz; Mollie O'Donnell; Celeste Williams; Sheila Straub; Larry Helman; and Barb Giller

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Dave Wakeman; Jim Wilson; and Linda Zupnick

**Non-Voting Present:**

**Others Present:** Grant Archer, Andy Bashore, Jordan Cavallaro, Council member Troy Markham, Elena Andrews, Mayor Kessler

b. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2019 – Mrs. Quintenz  
DRAFT 11-20-19

Larry Helman made a motion to Approve - 'minutes of November 20, 2019 as written.' Motion seconded by Sheila Straub. **Vote 6 - 0 - passed.**

**FOR:** Susan Quintenz, Mollie O'Donnell, Celeste Williams, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, and Barb Giller.

**AGAINST:** None.

**ABSENT:** Dave Wakeman, Jim Wilson, and Linda Zupnick.

c. Announcements/Small Victories/Residents' Comments:

Drexel Pocket Park plant material has been installed per plan. The water feature has yet to be installed and the lights are not yet working.

The Trees for Bexley has raised \$24,275.00 from 94 donors. This time last year the amount was around \$35,000.00.

a. Introducing Andy Bashore: Mayor Kessler

Mr Grant Archer introduced Mr. Andy Bashore to the Tree Commission. Mr. Bashore is the new Service Director and has been with the City for eighteen (18) years. Mr. Bashore started out with us as a mechanic.

b. Email tutorial - Jordan Cavallaro

Ms Jordan Cavallaro explained the group email created for Tree Commission members and staff. She asked that all members accept the invite.

c. Losing a special friend – Susan Quintenz

Chair Susan Quintenz shared with the Tree Commission of Ms. Denise Blank's passing. Ms. Blank had a big heart and lots of big ideas. She had amazing energy for her community and will be truly missed.

d. BBF grant approved for new irrigation on Broad Street – Mr. Archer

The Bexley Beautification Fund awarded a grant to install a new irrigation system on Broad Street. Mr Grant Archer shared that the existing drip irrigation was not working as well as planned. A \$5,000.00 grant was awarded to update the irrigation system along Broad Street and the City will cover the remaining amount. The plan is to install the new system next Spring.

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:** Susan Quintenz; Mollie O'Donnell; Celeste Williams; Sheila Straub; Larry Helman; Barb Giller; and Linda Zupnick

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Dave Wakeman; and Jim Wilson

**Non-Voting Present:**

e. Professor Markham – Human Evolution

Council member Troy Markham is back with his short mini lessons. He educated the Tree Commission this month about evolution.

Human Evolution Tree Commission

2. Landscape Applications to be reviewed – Elena Andrews, Staff Consultant

No landscape applications to review.

- a. None

**3. Mayor's Report: Ben Kessler, Mayor City of Bexley**

- a. Historic Preservation Committee – What could this mean for the Tree Commission?

Mayor Kessler shared with the Tree Commission the goals of the Historical Preservation Committee. Currently, there is nothing in place to protect historical significant commercial buildings. One goal of the committee is to provide protection for those commercial buildings from demolition.

- 1. Losing our brick curbs, gutters and streets

Mayor Kessler shared that informally, the City has preserved brick streets, curbs, and gutters. It makes sense to draft an Ordinance that preserves the existing brick throughout the City.

A discussion was held regarding the existing brick throughout the City and if an inventory list can be created. Members of the Tree Commission began to brainstorm ways of how existing trees and existing brick could be labeled as historical and how they can be protected.

- b. Havenwood Planning Group

A kick off meeting was held on site and residents in the surrounding area were all invited to share their ideas and what they would like to see at the park's location. A few residents were interested in joining the committee and Ms. Sheila Straub will act as the Tree Commission liaison for the group.

- c. CoGo Bike usage updates

No updates at this time.

- d. Commonwealth Park playing fields renovations

Funding has been provided to renovate the west playing fields at Commonwealth Park. The west side is used more for practice fields. The funds will be used for irrigation, and drainage, improvement of the existing soil conditions. One of the changes to the Commonwealth Master Plan will have plant material that will help with passage space and orientation of the fields. The field will be the first playing field that is irrigated.

**4. Staff Report: Elena Andrews, consulting Landscape Designer**

- a. Installations reviewed and approved –

Ms. Elena Andrews will continue to review landscape applications in the Spring.

b. Catalogue and inventory approved landscape plans

Ms. Elena Andrews provided an update regarding the catalogue and inventory of landscape plans. With the permitting system within the Building Department, past and future landscape plans will all be digital.

5. City Forester Report – Grant Archer, Arborist

a. Maple Trees on South Cassady – infill

Mr. Grant Archer provided an update regarding how many more Maple trees can be planted along South Cassady. South of Fair the Street trees are planted behind the side walk. The reason being there is more space and it is healthier for the tree. The discussion will continue next month regarding species and number of trees that can be planted.

b. Number of Chinkapins for Broad Street

There are eight (8) locations along Broad Street for new Chinkapins to be planted. Those spaces are all from removals that took place in 2018 and 2019. The spacing along Broad street is 50 feet on center.

c. Number of unfilled tree spaces for street trees

Mr. Grant Archer will provide an update at a later meeting.

d. Plantings at Pump House Park

Mr. Grant Archer provided an update regarding the planting at Pump House Park. The planting bed in front of the wall along Alum Creek is in need of more plants. Mr. Grant Archer suggested a very simple plant palette because the area collects a lot of litter. Mr Grant Archer suggested Oriental Grasses and Chair Quintenz suggested Japanese Andromeda.

Chair Quintenz asked Tree Commission members to come back with plant specie ideas for the next meeting.

e. Replacement tree for ash on Pleasant Ridge re: Capital Parking Lot

Capital University removed about seventeen (17) ash trees along the Pleasant Ridge parking lot. Elm trees were re-planted throughout the area.

6. **Old Business:**

a. City of Columbus/City of Bexley – collaboration of installation north of Cassady RR tracks and South of Fifth Avenue – Mr. Helman

Mr. Larry Helman provided an update regarding the improvements along N Cassady south of the railroad tracks to 5th Ave and the intersection. The proposed sixty (60) foot right of way located at the cross section with traffic flowing west will include a ten (10) foot wide multi-use path, a seven (7) foot tree lawn, thirty (30) foot pavement which includes two (2) travel lanes and a center lane. On the east side a seven (7) foot tree lawn and five (5) foot walk way.

b. Gould road repaving and Calming Circles – Mayor Kessler

Mayor Kessler provided an update regarding Gould Rd calming circles. S Gould is due for new pavement and it is a joint project with the City of Columbus. The calming circles will be installed as part of the Gould Rd project. There will no brick around the calming circle, which is a minor change from the approved design.

c. Commission Members Reports

1. MSG Stage Two – Mr. Helman and Ms. O'Donnell

Mr. Larry Helman and Ms. Mollie O'Donnell provided an update regarding the progress on the Main Street Guidelines. Feedback was received from Architectural Review Board members, Boarding of Zoning and Planning, and the design consultant. The current Main Street Guidelines lack urban design leaving unanswered questions about the expectations of the current and remaining space and its uses. Ms. Mollie O'Donnell agrees there are issues with the current Main Street Guidelines. The discussion will continue next meeting about how the Tree Commission would like to proceed in making improvements to the Main Street guidelines.

**7. New Business:**

a. One Trillion Trees: Bexley's Response

A meeting will be held to discuss how much space is remaining throughout the City to plant more trees.

1. Spring Tree Give Away – 50 free trees; \$100.00 rebate on trees from Oakland

Chair Quintenz shared that the Bexley Beautification would like to give away 50 trees in April. The event was successful last year and they only gave away twenty (20) trees. This year they would like to give away fifty (50) trees. Those who do not get a free tree would receive a rebate from Oakland.

2. Study Group – Defining our mission and action plan

b. Broad Street Median (western edge) at St. Charles/Wolfe Park – Mr. Helman

Mr Larry Helman provided an update regarding the medians on Broad Street. There are eight (8) along Broad street. The first median on Broad off Nelson is missing

signage that helps with the flow of traffic. The curb cut off Wolfe Park is difficult to see at night and the existing trees in the median are hit due to lack of visibility. The irrigation system is damaged frequently when vehicles run into the area. The goal is to make to this area more visible to traffic so less damage will occur to the median.

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c. Landscaping around Stanbery Columns at Broad Street

No discussion was held.

d. Protecting and displaying our brick curb and gutters – Mrs. Quintenz

A discussion was held at the start of the meeting regarding the brick curbs and gutters.

e. Year in review

A discussion was held about the projects Tree Commission members were excited about this year. The new permitting software in the Building Department allows past and future landscape plans to become digital making the process easy to follow up on. Members also appreciate Mr. Dan Bier from MKSK and the projects he has brought to the Tree Commission. Members are also excited about the improvements to the pocket park next to the Drexel Theater and neutral planting pots along Main Street.

**8. Staff Reports:**

Next Meeting will be held on January 15, 2020.