



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 19, 2020**  
**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 – Larry, Ellen and Barb out: Appoint Mollie

**Roll Call:**

**Voting Members Present:** Celeste Williams; Sheila Starub; Mollie O'Donnell; Jim Wilson; and Susan Quintenz

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Linda Zupnick

**Non-Voting Present:**

**Others Present:** Richard Sharp, Elena Andrews, Grant Archer, Mayor Kessler, Jordan Cavallaro

b. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2020 - Mrs. Quintenz  
DRAFT 1-15-2020

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve - 'the Minutes of January 15, 2020 as written.'  
Motion seconded by Celeste Williams. **Vote 5 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Celeste Williams, Sheila Starub, Mollie O'Donnell, Jim Wilson, and Susan Quintenz.

AGAINST: None.

c. Announcements/Small Victories/Residents' Comments:

a. TFB 2019 Final Total --

The final total for the 2019 Trees for Bexley is \$33,455.00 with 122 donors. The donations are down from last year, however, there was a big campaign for the Jeffrey Mansion projects this past year.

b. Drexel Circle Historical Marker Dedication, April 28, 2020 –  
Elena Andrews

Ms. Elena Andrews invited the Tree Commission to the dedication of the Camp Bushnell historical marker. The ceremony will take place on Tuesday April 28, 2020. April 28 is the day the camp opened.

c. A Sharp Point – Richard Sharp, City Council Liaison

Council liaison, Richard Sharp, shared with the Tree Commission the City of Columbus is currently testing self-driving vehicles in residential areas.

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

a. New Build 745 Frances

Ms. Elena Andrews presented her staff review for 745 Francis. 745 Francis is a new build and has been approved by the Architecture Review Board (ARB) and Board of Zoning and Planning (BZAP) subject to the landscape design. A row of arborvitae was requested to be added on the south side of the property by ARB for privacy screening. The proposed plant material works well for the area and will do well in this type of environment.

Pat from Ryan Landscaping was present to the landscape plan. The existing Oak Tree in the front of yard and the American Basswood on the north side will remain. There is currently a tree protection plan for the existing trees on site. Existing plant material at the rear of the property has been removed. The landscape plan is proposing a few Sugar Maple trees be added to the rear of the property. The proposed plant material has perennials that will bloom at different times throughout the year and deciduous plant material will be planted throughout the yard. There is no irrigation plan for the proposed landscape design.

TPGR 20- 745 Francis Tree Commission Staff Review 1-20-20

745 Francis landscape

Gruber Elevation View 1 Wed Feb 5 2020 22-42-43

Gruber V.3 Landscape Plan Wed Feb 5 2020 22-42-25

Gruber V.3 Landscape Plan Wed Feb 5 2020 22-43-34

IMG 1477 Wed Feb 5 2020 22-44-03

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve - 'the landscape plan for 745 Francis as presented.' Motion seconded by Sheila Starub. **Vote 5 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Celeste Williams, Sheila Starub, Mollie O'Donnell, Jim Wilson, and Susan Quintenz.

AGAINST: None.

b. South Community Gardens

Ms. Elena Andrews presented the landscape plan for the South Community Garden. The garden will be installed over an old landfill and precautions are taking place to ensure the safety of those who use it. The entire area will be capped which includes a two foot (2 ft) mix of compacted soil-gravel mix. The cap will prevent anything from penetrating down which includes, plant material or tress. Once added, a protective membrane will be added. The entire garden will be raised two-three feet (2-3 ft.) and the proposed landscape will sit on top of the protected barrier.

Currently, there is an existing bike rack and public restrooms. The proposed landscape plan will have sixty-seven (67) plots. The size of the beds are 4x14, more narrow beds allow gardeners to walk around the perimeter of the bed rather than stepping inside the bed to care for the plants. The circles are where the hose bibs will be located and will have a fifty foot diameter (50ft). The compost bin will be located at the southwest corner of the garden. The main focus of the garden is the "community circle" which includes a giving garden, pollinator garden, an herb garden, and a butterfly garden. The bee garden will be located at the far southwest corner. A shed and pergola is also proposed as well as split rail fence and the corners of the gardens a boxwood hedge is proposed.

S Community Garden

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve - 'the South Community Garden landscape plan as presented.' Motion seconded by Sheila Starub. **Vote 5 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Celeste Williams, Sheila Starub, Mollie O'Donnell, Jim Wilson, and Susan Quintenz.

AGAINST: None.

c. Broad Street Gateway at Nelson Updates – Mollie O'Donnell

Ms Mollie O'Donnell provided an update regarding the median at Broad street. Mr. Grant Archer, Ms. Elena Andrews, Ms. O'Donnell, Mr. Larry Helman and Mr. Dan Bier met to review design ideas and discuss the issues with the median. During the meeting they discussed vegetation, signage, lighting, and if the median has enough mass. A meeting will be held in March to further discuss a design.

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

a. Havenwood Planning Group - Survey

Havenwood Park is in the process of being surveyed.

b. Commonwealth Park Master Plan – Ferris Survey

Mayor Kessler shared with the Tree Commission that Havenwood Park is in the process of being surveyed and Commonwealth Park is done being surveyed

c. Gateway South at Main and Parkview Updates

Gateway South is the parking located at Main and Parkview. A meeting was held with the development team regarding the area. A plan will be coming City Council within the next few months. The Tree Commission can expect to review a landscape design in either May or June.

d. 5G cell tower

Mayor Kessler provided an update regarding the 5G cell towers. According to Federal Law, cell towers can be placed anywhere in city right-of-way giving the city very little rights regarding the placement and design of the towers. The city can recommend any area within a one hundred feet (100ft) of the area the cell towers have been proposed. Verizon, is acting in good faith and following Ohio law regarding the cell towers. Ohio law is more restrictive than the Federal law and at any point cell providers can say they will be acting with Federal law. The towers are thirty feet (30ft) tall and Verizon wants to install about eighty-six (86) towers throughout the city.

The City of Bexley has drafted up their own design guidelines for the towers and City Council has been actively reviewing the city's right-of-ordinances and coming up with a plan for future providers. According to State law there is a provisions that other occupants of the right-of-way need to be considered, meaning the City can deny any applications based upon other legal occupants of the right-of-way.

The design guidelines that have been drafted address the existing tree root zones in the right-of-way. The tree canopy will is also being proposed as an occupant of the right-of-way as it is a vertical space within the right-of-way. Any vertical improvements to the right-of-way should not conflict with existing tree canopy.

e. Landmark Tree ordinance

The Ordinance for a landmark tree is still in draft form. The ordinance will allow the Tree Commission to name one tree a year as a heritage tree on public or private property. It is voluntary and will provided extra protection to a tree from possible removal.

f. Jeffrey Woods Festival

The trees will be tapped on February 29. The Jeffrey Woods Festival will be held on March 7 at Jeffrey Park. Actives, as well as, tree tapping will be planned.

g. Alum Creek Stair installation

Engineers are currently looking over the plans and the stairs will be installed in the near future

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

Ms. Elena Andrews wanted to discuss the tree protection guidelines for the public right-of-way. The goal for the tree protection guidelines is bring it all together into one document and have available online for contractors. The information will be provided through the online permitting system when contractors pull a Site Development permit

a. Installations reviewed and approved –

Ms. Elena Andrews will review landscape plans in the Spring.

b. Catalogue and inventory approved landscape plans

No discussion was held

Site Plan Requirements for New Builds\_FINAL 2-20-19 (1)

**5. City Forester Report – Grant Archer, Arborist**

a. Stump removal updates

Mr. Grant Archer provided an update regarding stump removal. The crew is about one to two (1-2) weeks behind removing stumps.

b. Arbor Day Celebration

A meeting for Arbor day will take place February 24.

c. Drexel Pocket Park lighting

No discussion was held.

**6. Old Business:**

a. MSG Part Two Moving Forward - What to do?

Ms. Mollie O'Donnell provided an update regarding the Main Street Guidelines

b. Gould road repaving and Calming Circles – Mayor Kessler

No discussion was held

c. Commission Members Reports

1. One Trillion Trees: Bexley's Response

a. Results of Survey of Central Ohio communities

A request was sent out to see if other communities had a map of their City's tree canopy coverage. Bexley is gathering information from other communities to see how a survey benefit the City. Species for Ohio Native Plant month would like to designated everyday in April for a native tree to be planted. April 1st is a Sugar Maple tree. See the attached list for the native trees in Ohio.

d. Other

canopy cover

Worthington\_Canopy\_Coverage

7. **New Business:**

a. Non- resident alternates on Tree Commission – Charter Review

Ms. Susan Quintenz wanted to have a discussion regarding a recent topic the Charter Review Committee was going to review. The Tree Commission currently has a few alternate members who non-residents and members who are residents of Bexley.

A discussion was held among the Tree Commission about the benefit of having non-resident as alternates. The alternates have experience in working with other cities, fundraising experience, and have previously lived Bexley.

b. Other

C\_UsersTuTuDownloadsCanopy Cover Community questionnaire

C\_UsersTuTuDownloadsODNR April 2020 Native Trees

8. **Staff Reports:**

a. Richard Sharp - City Council Liaison

Council liaison, Richard Sharp shared an idea on how to get a count of trees located on private property. He suggested a questionnaire be made up and sent out with the

water bills. The questionnaire would be simple in that it would ask residents how many non-ornamental and ornamental trees they have on their property.

