Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

10-16-19

Attendees: Mollie, Ellen, Susan and Barb

Arrived late: Linda and Celeste

Left early: Mollie

Meeting Minutes:

Mollie motioned to approve 9/18/19 meeting minutes. Ellen second. In favor – 4. Opposed – 0.

Small Victories:

* Grant confirmed fence at the Pump House park had been painted.
* Susan reminded the group of the Community Foundation’s fall event to honor Barb and her husband, recipients of the Corner Stone Award.

TPGR 19-1 17 North Stanbery:

* Andrew Sweet presented.
* Andrew explained that the project will be a new arborvitae green fence along Broad Street. The existing honeysuckle and roots will be removed. No existing trees will be removed. Approximately 10-15 yards of new soil will be brought in to raise the bed and mulch it. The arbs will be pushed to the west to allow more visibility of the stone pillars and wing wall. Branches will be limbed up around the stone pillar and wing wall. The yard is irrigated but the homeowner has not yet turned it on.
* Kathy explained that the yard has unique setback because of the difference of Broad and Stanbery. Broad has a 2’ setback behind the sidewalk and Stanbery has a 19’ setback behind the sidewalk.
* Andrew explained that the arbs have a 1-year warranty unless there is an over 40% loss.
* Mollie motioned. Project was approved with the following conditions:
  + The plant material will be irrigated.
  + The plant material will shift west to expose the wing wall.
  + The City of Bexley reserves the right to design and install plants in the right of way in the future to enhance the stone columns and wings walls which may impact some of the proposed plant material.
* 4-0 vote.

TPGC 19-12 Jeffrey Mansion Renovation and Expansion:

Dan Bier presented.

Susan asked if there were standards to mitigate heat from the parking lot. Susan noted her concern that the lower parking lot did not have enough perimeter landscape to soften the edges.

Celeste asked if there were any drainage issues with the woodland approach path. Dan explained that EMHT did a stormwater management plan but that there were not anticipated problems in that area particularly since the swale is located away from the path.

Mollie noted her concern with the 3:1 slope at the upper north terrace by the parking lot. She noted that a 4:1 slope was the City of Columbus standard for a grass slope for safety standards for mowing.

Celeste noted that the evergreen screen by the neighbor at the upper north terrace might have more variety for educational purposes. Dan explained that it was designed to have 100% coverage when installed per the neighbor’s request. Elena noted that there might be other areas in Jeffrey Park or even Commonwealth and Havenwood to have a grove of a variety of evergreens for educational purposes that was more accessible.

Dan explained that the project was not irrigated due to budget cuts. Discussion occurred about the City needing to be consistent to make irrigation a condition of approval for project.

Celeste motioned. Barb second. Project was approved with the following Conditions:

Adding irrigation to the north portion of the project around the Mansion.

* 4-0 vote.

TPGC 19-31 Service Lot at Delmar:

Elena Andrews presented the project.

Discussion occurred about whether the plant material should be irrigated. None of the plant material at the City service garages ups the street are irrigated. The project is an improvement to a vacant lot and is not very visible like Jeffrey Mansion. The City needs to be responsible for ensuring that the plant material survives and needs to replace it if it does not.

Ellen motioned to approve the project as presented. Barb second. Discussion regarding the irrigation occurred. Motion did not carry. 0-4 vote.

Celest motioned. Barb second. Project was approved with the following conditions:

That watering occurs as needed (ideally twice weekly) for two years as the plant material establishes.

The water can occur either mechanically through irrigation or manually.

Dead plant material will be replaced by the City of Bexley.

* 4-0 vote.

Other Items:

Grant noted that he added an area for resident’s comments on the Sweet Gum removal application. This was in response to the application from the September 18, 2019 meeting that was denied by the Tree Commission. The applicant did not feel he was able to explain his request adequately.

Susan brought up the formation of a Historic Preservation Committee in the City of Bexley and noted that the Tree Commission might want to get involved. There are many areas of overlapping interest such as the brick streets and burbs, stone pillars, wrought iron fences, heritage trees and old stone walls.

Susan noted that Grant will be meeting with Ed Young from Yard Barbers to talk about maintenance for various areas throughout the city.

Susan noted that the Bexley Community Foundation approved a grant for $16,000 for design fees for the Cassidy Ave north of the railroad tracks to help provide suggestions to the City of Columbus for the improvements. No one present is sure of the status of that project.

Elena noted that Jordan has been digitally adding all of the Tree Commission projects into ViewPoint and giving them application numbers. All future projects will be assigned application numbers in order to be tracked in the system.