



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
04:00 pm

These minutes are intended to be interactive minutes, referencing video and audio recordings hosted at www.bexley.org.

To view and listen to the context behind the decisions taken at this meeting, please visit www.bexley.org/meetings.

1. Convening the Meeting:

a. Call to Order/Call the Roll – Larry Helman, Vice Chair

1. Establish a quorum – Susan, Barb and Ellen absent. Appoint Mollie as voting member.

Alternate Ms. Mollie o'Donnell will be voting. Mr. Larry Helman will be acting Chair as Ms. Susan Quintenz is excused for the September 18, 2019 meeting.

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Jim Wilson; Mollie O'Donnell; Sheila Straub; Larry Helman; and Celeste Williams

Absent:

Excused: Dave Wakeman; Linda Zupnick; Barb Giller; Ellen Bowden; and Susan Quintenz

Non-Voting Present:

- b. Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2019 – Mr. Helman
DRAFT 7-16-19 (1)

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve - 'the July 17, 2019 minutes as written.' Motion seconded by Celeste Williams. **Vote 5 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Jim Wilson, Mollie O'Donnell, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, and Celeste Williams.

AGAINST: None.

ABSENT: Dave Wakeman, Linda Zupnick, Barb Giller, Ellen Bowden, and Susan

Quintenz.

c. Announcements/Small Victories/Residents' Comments

a. Pump House Park fence – Grant Archer

The fence around Pump House was painted black. Mr Larry Helman discussed a concern with homeless at Pump House Park. Two (2) of the four (4) benches that were in the park have been re-located. Mr. Grant Archer added that the Parks and Rec department reached out to the City of Columbus to assist with the waste and hazardous materials in the park. Mr. Grant Archer also announced that Mr. Bill Dorman is no longer employed with the City of Bexley.

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Jim Wilson; Mollie O'Donnell; Sheila Straub; Larry Helman; Dave Wakeman; and Celeste Williams

Absent:

Excused: Linda Zupnick; Barb Giller; Ellen Bowden; and Susan Quintenz

Non-Voting Present:

b. Bexley Community Foundation fall event – Sheila Straub

Ms. Sheila Straub invited the Tree Commission to the Bexley Community Foundation Fall Event on October 17 at the Barn.

c. Other

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

a. 127 South Dawson – Clint Rex, resident and Greg Pyles, designer

Ms Elena Andrews shared her Staff Review with the Tree Commission. Ms. Elena Andrews received a nice and complete landscape application for 127 S Dawson. The proposed plant material and wall is all appropriate for the area and will be located two (2) feet within the City Right-of-way along Powell Ave. The Tree Commission had a discussion regarding the safety of pedestrians and line of site. Mr. Clint Rex presented the landscape plan to the Tree Commission. The proposed wall is to be dry stacked and have a limestone cap. The proposed two (2) pillars on either side of the driveway will be 42 inches tall, the wall will be 22 inches high, and the two (2) pillars next to the sidewalk will be 24 inches high. The proposed pillars are going to be laid up with masonry block with a stone veneer and a limestone cap. The proposed plant material will be installed in the spring.

127 S Dawson Tree Commission Staff Review revised 9-4-19 (1)

2019-08-30 13.55.46 (1)

2019-08-30 13.56.04 (1)

2019-08-30 13.56.06

2019-08-30 14.11.55

Planting list

Rose Mims wall right of way

Retaining wall

Site

Celeste Williams made a motion to Approve - '127 S. Dawson as presented' Motion seconded by Jim Wilson. **Vote 6 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Jim Wilson, Mollie O'Donnell, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Dave Wakeman, and Celeste Williams.

AGAINST: None.

ABSENT: Linda Zupnick.

b. Police Station bio-retention pool – EMH&T Representative

Due to safety concerns the Bexley Police Department had originally requested that two (2) trees be removed. A discussion was held regarding the safety concerns the Police department had among the Tree Commission. Mayor Kessler amended the landscape plan to include that every effort will be made to maintain the trees (2) two Birch trees labeled "TBR" or to be removed. If the trees are damaged during the construction process then they will be replaced. Ms. Elena Andrews shared her staff report with the Tree Commission which was complete and nothing was missing from the application. The bio-retention pond has had issues with collecting storm water runoff. The City has been actively working to provide new plant material and re-design the area to fix these on-going issues.

Franco from EMH&T presented the landscape plan before the Tree Commission. A discussion was held regarding the birch trees during the construction process. EMH&T is concerned that when mucking out the area the tree roots will be damaged in the process. The trees are too large to be replanted elsewhere. EMH&T will add protection fencing and make every effort to ensure the survival of the trees during the construction process. Ms. Celeste Williams had mentioned the North Community Garden has been experiencing issues with geese. The proposed plant material should help cover the surface, which might help keep the geese away. The basin should always maintain a pool of water and levels will vary throughout the seasons.

At the south east corner of the building along N Cassingham are (3) three retention basins. The existing conditions are poor. The slope of the current basins make it difficult to mow. The area is hard to maintain and the basins are not working correctly. The proposed plan is to bring all three (3) basins together into one (1) large area. The proposed area will not retain water any longer than 24-hours. There is an engineered soil mix and an under drain to assist with the removal of water. The proposed plant material will be easier to maintain. Mr Grant Archer shared with the Tree Commission the basin near the community garden is not functioning properly and in order to keep

"Lead Status" the basin on the southeast side needs to be cleaned and dug out every 3-4 years. Bringing both landscapes to the Tree Commission at the same time will help fix the issues the bio basin near the Community Garden has and improve the basins on the Southeast side. The proposed plant material will be installed during the Spring season.

Bexley Police Facility Stormwater Improvements 2019-08-21

Bexley Police Facility Tree Commission Staff Review 9-4-19 (2)

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Jim Wilson; Mollie O'Donnell; Sheila Straub; Larry Helman; Dave Wakeman; and Celeste Williams

Absent:

Excused:

Non-Voting Present: Linda Zupnick

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve - 'the landscape at 559 N Cassingham with conditions that all efforts be made to maintain the trees labeled "TBR" (To be Removed). The two (2) Birch trees site fully outside of the footprint of the bio retention pool should not be impacted by construction. The City of Bexley will meet the Police Department to discuss any concerns. If the trees do not survive the construction, then the impacted tree must be replaced elsewhere on site in location acceptable to the Department.' Motion seconded by Mollie O'Donnell. **Vote 7 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Jim Wilson, Mollie O'Donnell, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Dave Wakeman, Celeste Williams, and Linda Zupnick.

AGAINST: None.

c. Alum Creek Main Street Connector - Dan Bier, mksk

Ms. Elena Andrews shared her staff review before the Tree Commission. The Alum Creek Trail head will be located right off Main and Parkview next to the parking lot. A set of steps will connect to the trail that leads to the dog park and the Athletic Fields at Schneider Park.

Mr. Dan Bier from MKSK presented the landscape before the Tree Commission. The proposed sitting areas will include blue stone pavers, columns will be installed near the entrance of the trail as you walk into the seating area, boulder retaining walls with limestone slap steps that lead to the water and crushed limestone path. The proposed plant material is a simple palette. Proposed London Planes will be planted along the newly proposed aligned parking lot. Service berries, Taxus, and ground cover will be planted within the seating area. An existing London Plane Tree will be protected and saved during the construction process. Mr. Dan Bier requested feedback and questions from the Tree Commission.

A discussion was held regarding the parking lot and the proposed changes and flow of foot traffic from the parking lot to the patio. The property line according to the plan is existing City property and the existing parking lot is encroaching on City Property. There is an existing sanitary line that limits some development in the front. A

discussion was held regarding any safety concerns regarding the existing guard rail and the seating area.

Alum Creek at Main - MKSK

Alum Creek Trail Head Tree Commission Staff Review 9-13-19

Bexley park view

Bexley aerial perspective

Bexley park view at E Main

Bexley view pedestrian walkway

c18538-DETAILS-L100

c18538-LANDSCAPE-PLAN-L100

c18538-LAYOUT+MATERIALS-PLAN-L100

Jim Wilson made a motion to Approve - 'the Alum Creek Trail head with the following conditions. Consider angling the installation to follow the property line instead of being perpendicular to Main Street. This would get more of the construction out of the drip line of the London Plane tree that the design would like to save. Consider a different plant material than the Taxus x media 'Densiforms' around the sitting area. The City of Bexley will need to maintain the hedge to an acceptable height for safety concerns. Access to the head wall needs to be prevented for safety concerns. Provide a new guard rail fence- possibly out of wood. Connect the path to the existing parking lot. Resubmit revised plans to the Tree Commission Staff Approval.' Motion seconded by Sheila Straub. **Vote 7 - 0 - passed.**

FOR: Jim Wilson, Mollie O'Donnell, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Dave Wakeman, Celeste Williams, and Linda Zupnick.

AGAINST: None.

5. Old Business:

- a. Bids for installation of gateways at Broad/Gould and Broad/Westland – Grant Archer, Bexley City Forester

Mr. Dan Bier updated the Tree Commission regarding the gateways at Broad and Gould. A discussion was held regarding the proposed plant material, columns, collar, and if the design should be more asymmetrical or symmetrical. The Tree Commission made the comment of trying to take design elements from Broad and Westland and incorporate these elements at Broad and Gould.

Mr Grant Archer provided an updated regarding the bids. A few issues Mr. Archer has experienced in collecting any bids is there is not a lot of time to start the job. One project is small enough that companies do not have time for it, but by putting the projects together as one large project moves the start date to next fall.

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

The City of Columbus has agreed to help cover the cost of the improvements along North Cassady and Fifth Ave

- c. Gould road repaving and Calming Circles – Mayor Kessler

- d. Commission Members Reports

- 1. Main Street Guidelines Update – Mr. Helman, Ms. O'Donnell

Mr. Larry Helman provided an update an regarding the Main Street Guild lines. There are three (3) areas they are discussing to improve. The East and West ends of Main Street, the Tree Lawns, and hardscape. The code should have a more defined area of pedestrian areas. The Main Street Guidelines focus more on the buildings and does not have a good focus on landscape and more details will be added to include landscaping.

- 2. Other

6. New Business;

- a. Landscaping around Stanbery Columbus at Broad Street

No Discussion was held

- b. Other

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

- a. Catalogue and Inventory approved landscape plans - Mayor Kessler

Mayor Kessler provided an update regarding the cataloging of landscape. Ms. Elena Andrews and Mayor Kessler have had bi-weekly meetings to discuss on going projects.

- b. Havenwood Planning Group

There is a Havenwood planning workshop on October 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Havenwood Park. This workshop is open to anyone who would like to discuss the park and to gather feedback from the residents on the expectations they have for the area.

- c. CoGo Bike planting installation on Clifton

The CoGo Bike installation along Clifton Ave has received approval from the Recreation Board. The City will be installing the landscape in the Fall.

d. Other

Mayor Kessler and Council member Troy Markham have yet to meet regarding the planting in the right-of-way. Mayor Kessler requested feedback regarding low line plants that if well maintained will be acceptable to be planted in the tree lawn.

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

a. Installations reviewed and approved –

Ms. Elena Andrews provided an update regarding installed landscape plans.

Tree Commission Project List (3)

9-18-19 Tree Commission Site Review Comments Edible Forest

9-18-19 Tree Commission Site Review Comments Lyonsgate Entry

9-18-19 Tree Commission Site Review Comments bluespot Yoga

b. Drexel Pocket Park – grant application – plant material installation plus other graphic opportunities

The Pocket Park is in the design phase.

c. Commonwealth Plan – Initial Meeting – Ms. Andrews and Mr. Helman

A meeting was held regarding the Commonwealth Park Master Plan on site. The installation of the Arboretum on the west side of the park was discussed.

d. Drexel Circle Historical Marker

The Bexley Historical Society has final layout of the sign and the goal to install the Historical marker is in November.

7. **Staff Reports:**

a. Grant Archer – City Forester

1. Tree removals at Capital

Capital University has taken down (19) nineteen Ash Trees along the west parking lot side located along College Ave. The trees were failing and their removal was a part of an approved landscape plan. Ms. Elena Andrews will reach out to Capital to see if they have any plans to landscape that area.

2. Tree planting list—

No Discussion was held

3. Flower baskets – watering priorities and removals

No Discussion was held

4. Removal of trees along west side of Cassady – what will be planted

A large Oak tree was removed from a backyard on Ashbourne and it opened up that space. Mr. Grant Archer will follow up with Ms. Susan Quintnez.

a. Other

Mr Grant Archer brought before the Tree Commission a Sweet Gum/Bradford Pear Removal Request located at 216 N Remington. A Bradford Pear Tree is being requested for removal, the tree is still viable. A Bradford Pear tree was removed across the street in 2018 by request of the home owner. The policy states that the City does not remove two (2) trees on the same block within three (3) years of each other. If there are no underground utilities preventing the replacement of the replanting of another tree it will be replaced.

A discussion was held regarding the residents concerns regarding the removal of Bradford Pear Tree.

Sheila Straub made a motion to Approve - 'to deny the request of the removal of the Bradford Pear Tree at

216 N Remington. The resident can re-apply in three (3) years to request for its removal.' . **Vote 6 - 1 - passed.**

FOR: Mollie O'Donnell, Sheila Straub, Larry Helman, Dave Wakeman, Celeste Williams, and Linda Zupnick.

AGAINST: Jim Wilson.

b. Adjourn