



Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 29, 2020
04:00 p.m.

1. Convening the Meeting:

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

1. Establish a quorum –

Others Present: Council member Richard Sharp, Mayor Kessler, Elena Andrews, Grant Archer, and Jordan Cavallaro

b. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2020 - Mrs. Quintenz

c. Announcements/Small Victories/Residents' Comments:

- a. Charter Review Commission – Monday, May 18, 2020

Ms. Susan Quintenz and staff consultant Ms. Elena Andrews will attend the Charter Review Commission Meeting Monday May 18 via Zoom. The Charter Review Commission will be interviewing members from each board.

- b. Arbor Day Activities and Tree Give Away

Mr. Grant Archer provided an update about Arbor Day and the activities. One hundred (100) trees were given away on Arbor Day. The trees were fifteen (15) gallons and about seven (7) to eight (8) feet tall. Red Maple, Elm, Red Oak, Cherry, and Tulip Poplar trees were the options residents could choose from. Resident could sign up to receive one (1) tree and the first 100 signups got a tree.

Trees were also planted at the South Community Gardens. Two (2) Pawpaws, Hazelnut, and Persimmons were planted.

c. Pansies at Drexel Circle

Ms. Barb Giller provided an update regarding the different flowers planted in Drexel Circle this year. In place of Daffodils, Pansies were planted at Drexel Circle. Next year, the goal is to add more flowers to fill in any empty space. Members of the Tree Commission liked the change in flower and the color of the Pansies.

d. Resident request for ornamental trees in ROW at 725 S. Cassingham

The resident at 725 S Cassingham is requesting ornamental trees to be planted in the right-of-way along S Cassingham. Mr. Grant Archer and Ms. Linda Zupnick will visit the site and report back during the May meeting with recommendations.

e. Other

2. Landscape Applications to be reviewed:

a. Broad Street Gateway at St. Charles – Larry Helman

Mr. Larry Helman provided an update about the landscape plan for Broad Street median at St. Charles. Mr. Helman shared that a few details they kept in mind while re-designing this median had been to keep the gateway design elements and safety features present. As far as design features, more mass was added to the median, as well as more lighting to address the safety concerns.

The proposed design shortens the median to soften the curve when leaving Wolfe Park heading west bound. A curve is proposed to be painted to allow vehicles to follow a white curve line as they proceed around the median. A rumble strip will be added as to alert those operating the vehicle when they are getting to close to the median. Up lighting will be added to help illuminate the median at night and the existing signage will remain.

A proposed brick area will be located at the west end of the median so it may hold any future signage for those to read who are heading east into the city. Plant material will include wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and Tupelo (*Nyssa*).

A discussion was held among the Tree Commission regarding the elevation, lighting, and the general design of the median.

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

a. Ordinances:

1. Plantings in the ROW – 1027.

Mayor Kessler provided an update regarding a draft version of Ordinance 1027 plantings in the right-of-way. The intent of the Ordinance is to provide a standard for plant material being planted in the right of way.

A discussion was held among the Tree Commission regarding the enforcement of the ordinance. If a resident is in violation of the ordinance it would allow the city to correct the issue if the resident does not comply. Some wording was added to the ordinance to include perennial plant material. The right-of-way along E Main was discussed and if commercial districts should be included in the ordinance or if businesses should address the right-of-way within their own landscape plan. The discussion will continue in May.

2. Landmark Trees

Council member Richard Sharpe provided an update regarding a new version of Ordinance 1026 Heritage Trees. The intent of the ordinance is to allow residents to nominate a unique privately owned tree to receive some recognition.

A discussion was held among the Tree Commission regarding the goal of the ordinance and the updates that have been made. The updates take away the burden of any nomination and instead focus on the honor of having a marked heritage tree. The Tree Commission also discussed ideas on how to keep the landmark tree booklet, heritage tree, and tree walk updated. The discuss will continue in May.

b. 5 G Cell Towers

No discussion was held. An update will be provided at the May meeting.

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

a. Tree protection – visual and written detail

Ms. Elena Andrews has been working on the tree protection plan and provided an update with the progress. Ms. Andrews has met with the Building department, city forester, to get city staff's comments regarding the plan and how to better protect the trees during the construction process.

The Tree Commission provided feedback regarding the document. A final version of the document will be discussed and voted on in May.

b. Other

Ms. Elena Andrews will start visiting sites to make sure landscape applications had been installed per plan.

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

a. Installation of gateway at Broad and Gould update

Mr Grant Archer provided an update regarding the installation of the gateway at Broad

and Gould. Those who are working on the site are waiting for good weather before they begin any concrete work.

b. South Community Gardens

Mr Grant Archer provided an update regarding the installation of the South Community Gardens. The garden beds are currently being built and the barn has been installed.

c. Installation of planting at City Hall

Mr Grant Archer provided an update regarding the installation of plantings located at City Hall. The existing plant material is currently being removed and will plant new material shortly after.

d. It's Spring: mowing; tree take downs; stumps; clean up; mulch

The planting beds throughout the city have all been mulched.

6. Old Business:

a. Gould road repaving schedule and planting Calming Circles – Mayor Kessler

Mayor Kessler updated the Tree Commission about the work on Gould. Work has begun on S. Gould Road from Main Street to Broad Street. The first phase involves curb repair, curb ramp replacement and some drive approaches on the West (Bexley) side of Gould. This work will continue for the next month and switch to the East Side (Columbus) after the West side has been completed. Milling and Paving the roadway is tentatively scheduled for late June, early July time frame. Other contractors for an underground utility installation project and a site improvement for St. Catherine's are also working on S Gould.

The calming circles will be re-done after the road work is complete along Gould. The goal is for calming circle to be completed in the fall.

b. Cassady plan for North of Railroad Track – Larry Helman

Mr. Larry Helman provided an update about the Cassady plan for north of railroad track. The City of Columbus plans to improve the north/south from the rail tracks to to 7th ave. Three lanes (3) heading south and four (4) lanes heading north.

Along 5th ave a few blocks west/east of the intersection will be improved.

The 5th ave intersection on the west side heading east, six (6) lanes will be added. Two (2) lanes going west and (2) lanes heading east, one (1) left turn lane, and one(1) right turn lane.

Changes from the railroad tracks up to 5th ave included on the west side curb cuts, storm drainage, a seven (7) foot tree lawn and ten (10) foot multiple use path. On the eastern side it will include a curb cut, a seven (7) foot tree lawn, and a five (5) foot

sidewalk.

c. **Commission Members Reports**

1. Any “take aways” from summaries of other communities tree canopy studies

Members of the Tree Commission were all pleasantly surprised about how many communities have taken part in a tree canopy study.

2. Franklin County Workshop in February – Celeste Williams

Ms. Celeste Williams shared with Tree Commission members about her experience at the Franklin County Workshop.

3. Reschedule Steve Cothrel

d. MSG Part Two – Mayor Kessler

The goal is try and incorporate the Main Street Design guidelines with Livingston, N Cassady and Broad into one unified document. No updates were provided.

7. New Business:

8. Staff Reports:

a. Richard Sharp – City Council Liaison

Council member Richard Sharpe shared with the Tree Commission a few ordinances are currently tabled.

The next Tree and Public Garden Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday May 20, 2020.

