

Minutes of Perrysburg Street Tree Commission

Meeting Held February 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER 9:00 AM

Chairman Scott Kirby called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. At that time, we went around the room and introduced ourselves to the newest Commission member, Michael Deal!

ROLL CALL

Members present: Christine Ardley, Kali Sawaya, Mark Easterling, Jim Hagen, Scott Kirby, Rob Ross and Michael Deal.

Member absent: Greg Kuhr.

APPROVAL OF 1/9/2023 MEETING MINUTES

We reviewed minutes from the January 9th meeting. Scott Kirby made the motion to approve the minutes as is and Kali Sawaya second the motion and all were in favor (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day Progress

Jim Hagen sent an email out to all Commission members outlining his ideas on Arbor Day. He would like to open it back up to the public. This year it will be held at Rotary Community Park on Friday, April 28th. Will reserve the shelter house in case of rain.

Discussion on the type of tree to plant and the Commission is leaning toward an Oak, nut tree or a Sycamore. Will need to check on the availability of the tree and a location.

Grade school children will make posters and winners will get their poster made into a banner and hung along Louisiana Avenue. Jim Hagen will talk to Brody Walters on his banner vendor and get a price and will then check last year's vendor for a price this year as well. Will need to get a proclamation from the Mayor's office and reach out to the Country Garden Club to see if they are willing to purchase the tree again this year. Would like to ask the new Urban Forester to do a small speaking part.

One of the supplemental activities could involve Marie Dunn, our PIO officer. It is street tree identification which would get the whole family involved. They need to identify the street tree in front of their house and write the species name of their tree on the sidewalk with chalk. Have them send a photo to Jim Hagen showing the sidewalk and their tree. He can forward to Marie Dunn and she could post them and turn off comments per Mark Easterling.

Start Thinking of Street Tree Budget Issues

Jim Hagen suggests increasing the budget to cover costs.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree City USA Recertification and Growth Award Application

Still awaiting word.

Winter Pruning Plans

Rob Ross said we have had challenges with snow but we are back at it. From January 1-31 our crews have trimmed 25 street trees and had 11 large removals. We will stay on this task.

Update on Budget

Nothing to report yet.

Tree Survey Update Plans for Summer

Rob Ross is happy to announce we have hired our Urban Forester – Dan Ledyard. He has 28.5 year's experience and is highly recommended. Dan Ledyard starts on February 13th and is excited to join our team! Scott Kirby sat in on the second round of interviews and asked specific questions to both the interviewees. Thanks, Scott!

Michael Deal asked about the tree survey. Rob Ross and Jim Hagen both gave him background on our tree inventory.

Jim Hagen reminded us that we will need to change the ordinance showing the Urban Forester title. Let's review at the next meeting.

Prunings/Removals Report

See note above under winter pruning plans.

Report on Christmas Tree Recycling Program

634 Christmas trees were picked up this year per Rob Ross.

OTHER BUSINESS

PLAT MAP FOR FOUNTAIN POINT TO REVIEW

Rob Ross asked that we not select the trees yet – let's wait for Dan Ledyard, our new Urban Forester, to get his feet wet first. Let's revisit this at the April meeting.

We are going to use this new development in conjunction with Kali Sawaya's project in her Tree Academy class.

Kali Sawaya asked about the email that Stephanie Miller, ODNR Urban Forester sent out to all communities on a questionnaire. Jim Hagen and Rob Ross worked together on completing it and sent the results to Stephanie Miller.

Kali Sawaya asked everyone to mark their calendar to attend the Northwest Ohio Tree City USA/Growth Award program to be held on Tuesday, May 9th in Wauseon. Details will be coming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m. with Kali Sawaya making the motion and Mark Easterling seconding the motion and all in favor (7-0).

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6th at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Jon G. Eckel Public Service Building, 11980 Roachton Road, Perrysburg, Ohio.