

Minutes of Perrysburg Street Tree Commission

Meeting Held October 7, 2024

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 AM

Scott Kirby, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call taken: Scott Kirby, Mike Deal, Jim Hagen, Dan Ledyard and Rob Ross were all in attendance. Christine Ardley, Mark Easterling and Kali Sawaya were absent.

Visitors: Brian Thomas, City Engineer, Kerry Wellstein, City Council Member, Judy Hagen, resident and Tim Bockbrader, Edge.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Scott Kirby made the motion to approve the September 10, 2024 meeting minutes and Mike Deal second the motion. All in favor (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Plantings for the Fort Meigs Ditch - Brian Thomas

Brian Thomas handed out copies of the Fort Meigs Road Multi-Use Path and Stream Mitigation Plan. It shows their choice of trees, shrubs, perennials and live stakes as well as their locations. He said the Army Corp gave their blessing on it and there will be an open house scheduled. Brian Thomas would like the Street Tree Commission's comments back to him in a few weeks. Will bid it the end of this year or early next year.

Judy Hagen asks that they choose another species in place of Red Maples. Jim Hagen said he believes Oaks would give it more diversity. Scott Kirby questioned the maintenance plan after the first year - who maintains the watering.

City Wide Leaf Pick Up Begins

Rob Ross said a small crew will start off on Monday, October 14th.

ODNR Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar Registration

Those in attendance gave a yes or no and Debbie Ivan will send out an email to those not attending the meeting to get a count and request a check to cover their fee. Judy Hagen asked if she can attend and said she would pay her own way. Kerry Wellstein expressed interest as well. Debbie Ivan will reach out to Stephanie Miller and get answers.

Tree City USA Recertification and Growth Award Application Paperwork Should

Begin

Dan Ledyard said we have started working on it. Dan Ledyard also told the committee he bought a few more tree road signs to either replace the ones that are faded out and have too many stickers on them and possibly add a few more in other entryways in the city.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued Discussion of Fall Plantings Availability

North Branch received the list Dan Ledyard sent to them asking for 45 trees and more to come in the spring. There will be 80 tree replacements. The East Third Street project will have 13 replacements. Need to have diversity. Mike Deal asked about the nursery stock. Dan Ledyard said he doesn't believe there is an issue.

Riverford Plat 11 Street Tree Selection Discussion

Tabled until the November meeting.

Uptown Street Tree Assessment

Dan Ledyard spoke to the Service Committee and they walked through the list. The city needs to remove three trees immediately. The trees are in decline and their life cycle is near the end. Tim Bockbrader, Edge, sent Dan Ledyard a copy of their proposed street tree plan late last week. Dan Ledyard reviewed it and sent Tim Bockbrader his thoughts. Tim Bockbrader spoke about the 300 block of Louisiana. This is actually the first phase and he would like to start the discussion on this phase. Jim Hagen asked how will the trees survive? Kerry Wellstein asked Tim Bockbrader about the cost. She said she is not sure Council will approve this expenditure. This project will need a full time crew to maintain this Streetscape. Per Mike Deal, bioswales could potentially do some modification. Kerry Wellstein stated new trees will grow up and not out, so we can see the architecture of the buildings. Organizational patterning is what is needed, said Tim Bockbrader.

Prunings/Removal Report

Dan Ledyard reported that in September there were 33 removals, 30 trims, 11 stumps and 29 storm damage pick-ups. Dan Ledyard also reported that the Bradford Pears need total replacement in Whitehall, Woodstream and Eaglecrest areas. Judy Hagen asked about a grant and Scott Kirby responded that it's a forgotten problem.

OTHER BUSINESS

Scott Kirby and Dan Ledyard talked and they decided we need to set up a 2 hour additional meeting to review the plans for the Fort Meigs Ditch and Streetscape plans before our next scheduled meeting. Debbie Ivan will reach out to everyone and set it up.

ADDITIONAL 2 HOUR MEETING: October 24, 2024 - 9:00 - 11:00

At 9:10, Dan Ledyard thanked everyone for attending. Those in attendance were: Dan Ledyard, Christine Ardley, Jim Hagen, Scott Kirby, Mark Easterling, Kali Sawaya (late) and Rob Ross spoke at the beginning of the meeting and then left. Absent: Mike Deal. Visitor: Tom Haar - City Staff Engineer.

1) STREETSCAPE PROJECT: Rob Ross and Dan Ledyard reviewed the plans prior to this meeting and agreed that 62 trees are too many. Dan Ledyard stated that he and Tim Bockbrader discussed the plan further and it was decided to remove the 6 Honeylocust trees. May decide to place small shrubs at the East Indiana Avenue corner.

Dan Ledyard told the committee members that he has attended other meetings on this topic and other comments he heard were that the leaves are too small and messy and they get carried in the stores and most of the suggested trees turn yellow. They are pressed for time in Phase 1 (300 block of Louisiana). On November 13th from 5:00-7:00, there will be an open house to be held at Inside the Five. Silva cells were discussed in the planting of the trees and it was said that these are very expensive. The question was asked, "How much space do we have at the top and bottom for the trees?"

Scott Kirby stated we should plan the landscape the same as the hard structure. We need to review the positive points of our present Streetscape. No cracked sidewalks due to roots and the trees lived their life for the past 20 years. Ask Tim Bockbrader if he can show us this type of project from 10 years ago to now. Dan Ledyard said he will set up a meeting with Joe Fawcett and Brian Homer to talk to them about our concerns and what we believe is a major change in how we proceed with our recommendations. What kind of infrastructure will we be using? Several committee members offered to attend the meeting if need be.

2) FT. MEIGS DITCH PROJECT: Tom Haar told the commission that we are going to lose Ft. Meigs road between Eckel Junction and Watermill & Eaglecrest if we don't get this work done. According to the Army Corp permit, we have to follow their rules and have to plant this many trees at 20' apart and 7 different species. Dan Ledyard would like to switch out the Red Maples to Hackberry. Tom Haar said he would make that suggestion. Tom Haar explained the drop structure and the concrete box that diverts the water back to the neighborhood creek.

Dan Ledyard made the motion to change the Red Maple species to Hackberry's. Scott Kirby second the motion and all were in favor (6-0).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. with Scott Kirby making the motion to adjourn and Jim Hagen seconding it. All in favor (6-0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. with Jim Hagen making the motion to adjourn and Scott Kirby seconding it. All in favor (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Ivan
Street Tree Commission

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024.