



Minutes of the
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

Members Present: Bob Brantsch, John Berg, Mike Rauh, Laura Root, Jeff Napieralski

Members Absent: Andrews Boateng and Jeff Saltzman

Staff Present: Sue Mottl, Arborist and Jill A. Janson, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Brantsch called the meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 3:56 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Ms. Janson called the roll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VISITOR RECOGNITION – Rosalynn McClusky, Forestry Intern. Ms. Mottl asked Rosalynn to introduce herself to the Commission and tell a little about herself and her career goals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Rauh made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting. MOTION PASSED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 2022 ODNR Tree Canopy Grant – Ms. Mottl reported that Stephanie Miller, from ODNR, visited Stow on December 15 and inspected the trees that were planted last fall as part of the grant program. The City should receive the matching grant funds (\$25,000) soon. A total of two hundred and twelve (212) trees have been planted.
- Bakers Glen Tree Planting – Ms. Mottl provided information from a meeting she attended with Mayor Pribonic, Law Director Jaime Syx and Deputy Service Director Don Brooker on this issue. About sixty-eight (68) trees were supposed to be planted after Pulte Homes built each home; however, only about sixty-five (65) were successfully planted. It was decided that the Law Department would prepare a notification letter to those residents who did not receive a tree offering them an opportunity to “opt-in” to receive a free tree with the funds the City is currently holding. Any residual funds remaining after residents receive a tree, according to the Law Department, could be used for tree plantings in other areas of the City since Pulte defaulted on the tree project. According to Ms. Mottl the City will purchase the trees but, a contractor will be hired to plant the trees.
- Tree Fest 2023 – Mr. Brantsch confirmed the date of Friday, April 28th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We previously discussed having a tree give-away and educational stations here at City Hall. See additional information under Community Business Expo under New Business.

- Commission Presentation to Council Committee – Mr. Brantsch presented the updated Power Point and asked for suggestions or corrections. He requested members attend the Public Improvements Committee on Thursday, January 26th at 5:30 p.m. He may also distribute a copy of the PP to Committee members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Community Business Expo – Ms. Mottl said she received news that the Expo (formerly Community Showcase) will be March 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the High School. Ms. Mottl said she would contact Linda Nahrstedt to determine how the City's area is to be set up and obtain additional information to relay to the Commission. Ms. Janson offered to take volunteers from the Commission to assist Ms. Mottl at the Urban Forestry booth that day in two (2) hour shifts. Mr. Brantsch offered to attend from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Mr. Rauh from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.; leaving the last shift available. We could give visitors a ticket to receive a free seedling at the Tree Fest if they ask a staff member a related question.
- New Programing – Ms. Mottl requested this item be placed on the agenda to garner ideas from the Commission for any new programming ideas for 2023. This could be proper tree planting, pruning or mulching instructions in neighborhoods or here at City Hall. Sign up would be through Parks & Recreation. Members agreed to think of ideas and present them at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- North Coast Urban Forestry Conference – Ms. Mottl said she has not seen the agenda yet but the conference will be at Lakeland Community College on March 3rd. She is unable to attend but, Rosalyn McClusky, Mike Fletcher and Jack Barta are planning to attend. If any members are interested in attending please let Ms. Janson know. More information will be available soon.

STOW SENTRY NEWS ARTICLES –

January: Oak Wilt Article – Andrews Boateng
February: Fruit Tree Update – Mike Rauh
March: Proper Mulching – Sue Mottl
April: Tree Festival/Arbor Day – Staff

NEXT MEETING: TBD

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Bob Brantsch, Chairman

Jill Janson, Secretary