



Minutes of the
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023

Members Present: Bob Brantsch, John Berg, Andy Boateng, Jeff Napieralski, Mike Rauh, Laura Root, 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 3:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Ms. Janson called the roll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VISITOR RECOGNITION – No Visitors were present for this meeting.

OPENING QUESTION – The opening question was posed with responses.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Saltzman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2023 meeting. MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tree Preservation – Ms. Mottl said that when she first started with the City of Stow the Commission was working with RJ Lavern at Davey to create a tree preservation program; which was completed, but never approved. She would like to revisit tree preservation again in light of her recent observations in Stow. She provided several photos of large, private trees removed by property owners with the debris left lying in wooded areas. Two (2) concerns she has about private tree removals and leaving a large pile of wood lying in low areas are increased stormwater issues and the potential for fire hazards. She said Stow is nearing the end of future residential development. Many properties have deep, wooded lots in Stow that could potentially be clear-cut for further development which could result in an increase of the referenced hazards. Additionally, a number of residents have expressed opposition to tree removals on private property. Currently, the City does not have authority to prevent the removal of trees on private property. Other communities in Ohio have legislation that prohibits or restricts the removal of certain private trees. A preservation program is under review internally by several Departments. Once finished, she will present it to the Commission for review. Mr. Rauh made a motion to endorse the initiative of tree preservation in Stow. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Tree Fest 2023 – Mr. Brantsch reminded the Commission that this event is Friday, April 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Mottl said registration started this morning through the Parks & Recreation Department and it's filling up quickly. Several educational stations will be set up and staffed by Commission members. All members said they would attend, with the exception of Mike Rauh who has another commitment. Andy Boateng agreed to receive the Arbor Day Proclamation at City Council this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Earth Day – Ms. Mottl confirmed the free Earth Day event on April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Adell Durbin Park. She will attend to answer visitors' questions.
- Google vs. OneDrive Applications – Due to previous discussions about using Google applications, Ms. Janson explained that she had a meeting with the Information Systems Department recently to discuss our use of files, documents and event scheduling. Because the City is a Microsoft world, and backup programs and public records policies are in place to accommodate MS and not Google, they suggested using the OneDrive application. OneDrive can store large volume files, documents that can be shared via a link without the necessity of user names or passwords. Permissions can be modified to allow or restrict editing.
- Davey Tree Carbon Footprint/Canopy Assessment – During Mr. Boateng's review of the Street Tree Management Plan, he thought that many additional tree benefits could be included. An updated assessment could also provide a clearer picture of the status of tree canopy in Stow since the 2013 assessment. If the City is interested, Davey Tree can provide a quote to update the Assessment. Ms. Mottl said we had a matching grant that paid the cost for the assessment and purchase of trees. Ms. Janson presented the records for the assessment done in 2013 and reported the cost was about \$13,000; which included the purchase of trees.
- Hiking Trail Bridge at Adel Durbin Park – Ms. Mottl reported that the recent storms took out the bridge connecting the hiking trail in Adel Durbin Park.

STOW SENTRY NEWS ARTICLES –

A brief discussion of alternate media sources was held. Ms. Janson reported that the City remains cautious in utilizing alternate news sources in order to prevent misconception to residents/viewers that that source is sponsored or endorsed by the City. Since the Stow Sentry is no longer printing publications but still has an on-line presence, news will continue to be filtered to them as well as the Akron Beacon Journal.

May: Proper Watering/Gator Bag Use – Sue Mottl
June: Wildlife Benefits of the Urban Forest – Jeff Saltzman
July: "Patriotic Tree" – Mike Rauh

NEXT MEETING: May 8, 2023

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Bob Brantsch, Chairman

Jill Janson, Secretary