



Minutes of the
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

Members Present: Bob Brantsch, John Berg, Jeff Saltzman, Andy Boateng, Jeff Napieralski, Laura Root

Members Absent: Mike Rauh

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

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Brantsch called the meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 3:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Ms. Janson called the roll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VISITOR RECOGNITION – Joseph Kollar, Environmental Specialist 11/Ohio EPA NE Office and Councilman Dave Licate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Napieralski made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting. MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS:

- “Playing & Pages in the Park” – An item was presented for the Commission’s review to partner with the Parks & Recreation Department at these events this summer. After discussion, several ideas were introduced of having the Department’s bucket truck and/or a “rope-up” in a tree for kids to simulate tree climbing. Ms. Mottl was going to check with the Law Department regarding liability to conduct such event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grant – Ms. Mottl provided an update that Stow’s application was submitted to the State of Ohio with awards announced this fall.
- 2022 Urban Tree Canopy Restoration Grant Update – Ms. Mottl gave a report of sixty-three (63) trees planted in various park areas this spring.
- Invasive Plant Restrictions – The Commission welcomed Joseph Kollar to the meeting. He introduced himself and gave a brief bio of his role with the EPA and stated that he is a current Stow resident. His concern is with invasive plants in the City’s park areas. Ideas were presented of educational and eradication programs that could be implemented to help restrict the impact of invasive plants/trees in Stow.
- Native Plant Garden at City Hall – Ms. Mottl explained that, due to the City’s plans of renovation of the front entrance of City Hall, this garden idea would not be possible. However, we may wish to pursue some type of interpretive garden in the plans for the new Skip Park area.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Councilman Dave Licate – The Commission welcomed Mr. Licate to the meeting and asked him to address the Commission. Mr. Licate said that he has a concern about trimming of the treelawn trees in our City. He has observed that the trees are not getting the attention they need with the current labor force and residents are taking it upon themselves to prune the trees. He is interested in presenting legislation to Council to contract for these services in order to bring the trimming schedule current. He is requesting the proper language and direction from Ms. Mottl and the Commission prior to introducing this legislation. After discussion, Andy Boateng made a motion in support of legislation to contract with a certified tree service to provide a regular cyclic pruning of the treelawn trees in Stow, seconded by Ms. Root. MOTION CARRIED.

STOW SENTRY NEWS ARTICLES –

July: “Patriotic Tree” – Mike Rauh
August: Callery Pear/Invasive Trees – Jeff Napieralski
September: Tree Planting Deadline Reminder – Sue Mottl
October: Planting Native Species to help Stormwater Effects – Sue Mottl

NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2023

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

Bob Brantsch, Chairman

Jill Janson, Secretary