



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

September 11, 2023

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

Members Absent: Jeff Saltzman
Andy Boateng

Also Present: Drew Reilly, Assistant Law Director
Linda Nahrstedt, Director of Parks & Recreation
Chris Sheridan, Assistant Recreation Supervisor
Debra Bennington, Commission Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brantsch called the regular Urban Forestry Commission meeting of September 11, 2023 to order at 3:34 p.m. and Ms. Bennington called the roll. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. VISITOR RECOGNITION

No visitors were present.

III. OPENING QUESTION

Each member answered the question, "What is your favorite tree in the fall and why?"

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Mr. Napieralski moved to approve the minutes of August 14, 2023 as submitted.

Yes Votes: Brantsch, Berg, Napieralski, Rauh, Root

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Additional New Member

Drew Reilly, Assistant Law Director, was present to discuss adding a new member to the Commission. The process would be to ask Council to change the codified ordinance to allow for expanding the commission's membership, which currently is "up to seven members". He recommended changing it "up to nine members". This would allow eight members to be appointed, but gives the ability to appoint a ninth member if situations arise when the Commission is split down the middle. A quorum for eight or nine members is five.

Motion:

Mr. Napieralski moved to increase the number of members to nine.

Yes Votes: Brantsch, Berg, Napieralski, Rauh, Root

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Reilly will draft legislation and send it to the Commission for language review, then submit to council for approval at the September 26, 2023 council meeting. Legislation will contain an emergency clause so three readings will not be required. Anyone interested can attend the meeting to speak on its behalf.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tree/Earth Fest

Linda Nahrstedt, Director of Parks & Recreation, and Chris Sheridan, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, were present to discuss 2024 Earth Fest. The event will take place on April 27, 2024 at Adell Durbin Park, time to be determined. The library is collaborating with us on the event.

Ms. Nahrstedt indicated 2023 Earth Fest did not take place due to inclement weather. Plans had been to include pop-up booths from several organizations including Summit Soil and Water Conservation and Metro Parks, and to include a scavenger hunt and guided hikes as activities. She had previous discussions with Sue Mottl about combining Earth Fest and Tree Fest. She is excited to combine the events and thought it should help increase attendance.

The Commission thought there should be more of an investment for people to get a free tree instead of simply signing up and driving through. Ideas of using a punch card or passport book were discussed where people would be required to visit a certain number of informational booths to be eligible for a free tree. Mr. Brantsch thought demonstration areas could include mulching, watering, pruning, planting and invasive species. Parks & Rec will prepare flyers and post information on the City's website and social media to promote the event. They will also coordinate a meeting with the library and Commission. That meeting could take place during a scheduled Urban Forestry Commission meeting. If it is held at a different time, only three members can attend due to Ohio Sunshine Laws.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Miller's Landing

Mr. Raul indicated he would like Sue Mottl's input on the planned development by Pulte Homes. He would like to know what we learned from the landscaping issues at Baker's Glen and what we will do differently at Miller's Landing.

VIII. NEWS ARTICLES

October: Planting Native Species to Assist with Stormwater – Sue Mottl

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is October 9, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Bob Brantsch
Chairman, Urban Forestry Commission

Debra Bennington
Secretary, Urban Forestry Commission

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