

Avon Lake Citizens Tree Commission
January 11, 2023, 7pm , Old Firehouse

Roll Call:

- **Present**
 - Voting Members: Amanda Byrnes; Michael Thain; Terry Robison; Public Works Director Kevin Brubaker; Councilperson Jennifer Fenderbosch
- Guests: Kelly Marton, Engineer; Mark Kacik

- **Not Present**
 - Urban Forester (Vacant)

Quorum: Yes

Minutes of Prior Meetings:

- Minutes from December 14, 2022 meeting
 - **Motion:** Accept revised version of the minutes. Amanda Byrnes 1st, Michael Thain 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

- **Officer elections**
 - Agree to continue with roles as they are.

- **Avon Lake Urban Forest Tour Review**
 - Stephanie Miller (State of Ohio Urban Forester), toured sections of trees in the city.
 - Tour was successful and informative
 - Problems identified:
 - Some places with too many of the same species
 - Roots cut to make way for sidewalk
 - Double trunk trees with split
 - Wrong size trees for size of treelawns
 - Weiss field needs plants to absorb excess water
 - Idea: identify trees on Buckeye Trail for future reference when selecting trees
 - Federal money will be available for reforestation; we can qualify for funds to increase our canopy.
 - Stephanie will provide dates for educational classes for Commissioners.
 - Improved standards over the past 20 years. Important to have someone with a lot of expertise and up to date on current science.
 - State will help with a management plan that will prioritize quadrants within the city needing the most urgent management.
 - Stephanie will work on our ordinances.
 - Some info should be in policy docs instead of ordinances.

- **Arbor Day 2023 (4/28) update**
 - Ordered white pine seedlings. 320 total for the two schools.
 - TBD whether a large tree will be planted and if so, on which campus.
 - Need to determine how to maintain moisture in the seedlings.

- For next year we need to start in the fall, to insure we have a selection of available species to choose from.
- Also for the future, we should consider longer term planning, to arrange with nurseries in advance.
- **Budget**
 - Passed education materials (Best Mgmt Practices, safety, construction, etc); Jennifer will forward to Kevin.

New Business:

- **Street Tree Program**
 - **MOTION:** Recommend to Public Service Committee that they recommend to Council to authorize the city to advertise for bids on the 2023 street tree planting program (Park Place, Belmont, and Albion). Jennifer Fenderbosch 1st, Michael Thain 2nd. Unanimously approved.
 - Later in the year, 6 more active subdivisions to be determined.
 - Jennifer will bring blueprints to a future meeting.
- **Public Outreach**
 - Facebook page with regular updates.
 - Big tree program.
 - Heritage trees.
 - Provide city with tree articles to include in monthly newsletters

Open Discussion:

- **Westwinds Condo HOA – Mark Kacik**
 - Concerns about frequent loss of mature trees to development.
 - Westwinds HOA. Mark has worked with the board to set up a “1-2-3” policy; replace 1 tree with 2 or 3 new plantings. Cost of replanting is a deterrent to approving removals.
 - Ideas for prevention of future losses
 - Educate the public; why trees are important. Info in the Avon Lake newsletter
 - Requirement for contractors to get a permit prior to removing trees (per 10 feet).
 - Adopt a citywide 1-2-3 policy.

Motion to adjourn – Michael Thain 1st, Amanda Byrnes 2nd, Unanimously approved.

Next meeting February 8 at the Old Firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Thain, Secretary