

**Minutes of the Avon Lake Citizens Tree Commission
October 11, 2023, 7pm , Old Firehouse**

Roll Call:

- **Present**
 - Voting Members: Michael Thain; Terry Robison; Amanda Byrnes; Councilperson Jennifer Fenderbosch
 - Guests: MaryAnne Stern, Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club Tree Committee

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

Quorum: Yes

Minutes of Prior Meetings:

- Minutes from September 13, 2023 meeting
 - **Motion:** Accept the minutes from the September meeting. Terry Robison 1st, Jennifer Fenderbosch 2nd. Unanimously approved.

City Council Report:

- **2023 Tree City USA application.**
 - Terry and Jennifer attended the ceremony in September, where Avon Lake was presented with 30 year Tree City USA award.

- **Changes needed to city ordinances**
 - Statute 1238.07i2, regarding payments made by new subdivisions to the street tree fund. It currently states that fees should be calculated by the Code Administrator. It should instead say City Engineer.
 - Motion: Recommend to the Public Service Committee to make the change to Statute 1238.07i2, to reference the City Engineer instead of the Code Administrator. Jennifer Fenderbosch 1st, Terry Robison, 2nd. Unanimously approved.

- **Donation of \$1000 to the street tree fund from Charah (who owns the power plant) fro Arbor Day.**
 - Motion: Recommend to the Public Service Committee that we accept the donation of \$1000 from ALERG/Charah to be used for the Arbor Day tree giveaway. Jennifer Fenderbosch 1st, Mike Thain 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Urban Forester Report:

- N/A

Old Business

- Update: Grant Application through Ohio Division of Forestry for funds from US Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grants
 - No new information
 - \$5000 education grant
 - Jennifer is talking to the Mayor, Kevin Brubaker and Ted Esborn about applying for grants which we have previously not been applying for.
 - Eg tree planting maintenance, workforce development, etc.

- pass through grant partner with Metroparks
 - Inflation Reduction Act money – need to submit a letter of intent by Oct 30.
- Progress on 2024 5th Grade Field Day/Arbor Day planning
 - No new updates
- Date for TC Academy homework – Master Planting Design (11/17/2023)
 - No new updates

New Business:

- MaryAnne Stern discussed the Garden Club’s desire to plant trees at Miller Road Park
 - Previously planted burr oak and bald cypress, which are doing well
 - First choice = black tupelo (northern variety), caroline and northern splendor, 40-50’ tall, 30’ canopy, red fall color. Need male and female trees.
 - Second choices = chestnut white oak and swamp white oak
 - Reviewed map of the park and discussed potential planting locations.
- Publicity campaign for Tree Commission and street tree program.
 - Need to garner public support for tree commission goals and activities
 - Newsletter or mailing?
 - Big tree contest
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- Charah’s trees donation (3 crabapples)
 - Contacted by Barbara Rudge, with Historic Preservation Society and member of the Garden Club. Identified vegetation that needs to be saved.
 - Contacted Doug Baldi, landscape architect
 - Found hybrid crabapple trees on corner of Lake and Avondale
 - Trees will be donated by ALERG/Charah (relocated)
 - Can be moved with mini excavator
 - Moved to Peter Miller estate on west side, grouped together
 - Will be moved after they go into dormancy
 - Avon’s Urban Forester Rick Varga evaluated the 3 hybrid miniature crabapple trees and outline the removal and planting process to Jennifer. She will meet with the Service Department to oversee the process used by the method outlined by Urban Forester Rick Varga.
- Approval of proposed 2024 budget spreadsheet for Tree Commission and Urban Forestry related expenses to Council
 - Motion: Recommend to the Public Service Committee to accept the proposed 2024 capital budget for urban forest. Amanda Byrnes 1st, Terry Robison 2nd, Unanimously approved.
 - Motion: Recommend to the Public Service Committee to accept the proposed Tree Commission operational 2024 urban forest budget. Amanda Byrnes 1st, Mike Thain 2nd Unanimously approved.
 - Motion: Recommend to the Public Service Committee to accept the proposed staff operational 2024 urban forest budget. Amanda Byrnes 1st, Mike Thain 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Open Discussion:

- For hazardous trees impacting electric lines
 - First Energy Urban Forester - Eric Rico cell 216-973-8364

Motion to adjourn –Mike Thain 1st, Jennifer Fenderbosch 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting November 8, 2023, Old Firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Thain, Secretary