

**Shade Tree Commission
Agenda
April 13, 2023 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

1. Establish quorum

All present except Nancy Walker. Our two new commission members are welcomed: Michael Lincoln and Deborah Daniels.

2. Approval of February 9, 2023 Minutes

RMB moved to approve JD second, all approve

3. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land •
21 Elmwood tree removal

Homeowner was concerned about the distance her tree was from the gas line. The city administration looked into the matter and determined that there was little danger to the gas line. The gas company agreed. The homeowner came to us. RMB described the jurisdiction differences of the administration and the STC for city trees in the ROW. The administration is ultimately responsible for safety and if a tree is deemed not an issue then the city has the option of not removing the tree. For other reasons the city will refer to STC for recommendations.

The STC agreed with the city. We recommended that the city inspect the tree annually.

A meeting between the city administration and the STC was

suggested. RMB will follow up.

4. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues

- No Title 37 items

5. Maintenance of the Tree Canopy

- No tree canopy maintenance items

6. New Business

- OU Earth Day Tabling Opportunity

No takers on this opportunity. Maybe next year.

- Discussion about educational materials and PR

There is a need for better brochures, posters and other information on all our programs. The education and events committee will work on this.

- Code revisions needed for ROW tree removal

Currently there is no penalty if you remove a tree from the ROW. RMB is working on this with David, but there have been some issues of communication.

- Pollinator Garden awards, consider joining Pollinator Pathways

RMB is researching this program. It comes with some benefits that can help solve some of the issues with the city. CF will talk with Sam Crowel and Amiee Delach to see if this interferes with our Bee City designation.

Priority tree plants for erosion on Longview Heights.

RMB discussed the problems of gully erosion on LongView Heights. The street lost 300 ft of trees. This should be a priority area

for tree planting. A similar situation is occurring near Sells Park. A suggestion to work with Soil and Water was made.

7. Old Business

- Work Study Student update

We have a work study for the summer, Xander Stultz. The first project is to do research on city arboretum programs, grants and suggestions for Athens. The second half of the summer can focus on project development.

- By-laws Project update

Hopefully a draft will be out before April 30.

8. Opportunity for citizens to speak on items not covered on the agenda.

9. Adjournment JD motioned RMB 2nd, all in favor. Note the next meeting will be Tuesday May 9, 7:00 pm in the front conference room (with no video!).