

MEETING MINUTES
Athens Shade Tree Commission
August 11, 2022
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Dyer, Member
Roxanne Malé-Brune, Member
Ben Ziff, City Council Rep
Katherine Ziff, Alternate member

ALSO PRESENT

David Riggs, City of Athens Director of Code Enforcement
Ryan Buckley, Buckley Group Engineering + Surveying
Bob Maher, Athens Catholic Community Peace and Justice Committee

1. **A quorum** was established.
2. **Minutes** of the June 9, 2022 Shade Tree Commission were approved.
3. **TITLE 33: Tree Permit, Right of way Issues, Public Land**
 - Director Riggs brought forward a concern from a resident about a maple tree in the City right of way at 97 Central Avenue. Tree is dropping limbs. Roxanne and Jim will evaluate the tree and, if need be, request Ann Bonner to review also. They will report their findings to Director Riggs who will take next steps including tree trimming or removal. If the resident believes the tree presents a safety issue, the resident should go directly to Director Riggs.
4. **TITLE 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**
 - Pollinator Garden signs are forthcoming.
5. **TITLE 41: Landscape Plan Review**
 - University Estates Medical Office Building tree plan, with Ryan Buckley of Buckley Group Engineering + Surveying present to represent the project. Roxanne reviewed the goals and responsibilities of the Shade Tree Commission. 162 trees on the site will meet the requirements of the City code. Mr. Buckley, in presenting the project, noted the presence of 219 trees. Brief discussion ensued regarding plan for erosion control – ground cover, types of trees. Shade Tree representatives will visit the site to confirm the number of trees and report back to Director Riggs who will prepare the project landscape plan approvals.
 - Kershaw Greene Phases III and IV. Review will be held at September Shade Tree Commission meeting when the representatives are able to attend. Initial comments were made about good incorporation of trees in parking area and good use of native trees.
6. **Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**
 - ODNR Canopy Restoration Grant: Shade Tree Commission members present decided to move forward to support the grant. Katherine offered to assist City with preparing grant application, Roxanne will represent the Planting Committee.
7. **New Business**
 - Mr. Bob Maher, representative from the Athens Catholic Community Peace and Justice Committee, brought forward their plans for tree planting and asked how the group might work with the City. Roxanne described possible scenarios and locations for planting on city land/ROW.¹

Roxanne described possible scenarios and locations for planting on city land/ROW.¹ One scenario is near one of the churches, another is the Community Center Dog Park tree planting area. Timing for planting would be late October/November 2022. City can supply trees from the tree bank and a partner organization such as Mr. Maher's committee can help with planting, maintenance, and watering. Also, a local contractor is available to plant and maintain for \$150 per tree. Director Riggs can show the Peace and Justice Committee possible ROW sites around the church. Roxanne is contact person to facilitate meetings for the group on their proposed project.

8. Committee Reports

- Education, Outreach and Events: Katherine noted progress on City of Athens Tree City USA 2022 application.
- Tree planting and Data: Roxanne reviewed the plan for the Community Center Dog Park area tree planting regarding trees selected, planting considerations, plan to ask Ann Bonner to review the tree selections. City will contract with a landscaper to plant the trees; planting is scheduled for fall 2022.

Roxanne reviewed plans for the fall 2022 pilot residential ROW tree planting on the Near East Side, described the details of the program, and invited anyone not in the Near East neighborhood who would like to be considered to participate please to contact Director Riggs. Purpose of program is to begin to restore the City's tree canopy. Letters inviting homeowners to participate are going out this August. The City will plant 10-12 trees and homeowners will be asked to water and help maintain the trees.

Roxanne reviewed general residential ROW tree requirements, noting that residents should not prune or take down trees in a City ROW without first completing the form on the Shade Tree website and reading the FAQ's posted there.

Katherine reviewed Bus Stop planting project: Arbor Day Committee is working with City to plant shade trees at bus stops. Potential sites have been reviewed and selected by Mary Reed of the Arbor Day Committee in consultation with Ann Bonner; the sites have been reviewed by City of Athens Engineering and Public Works Dept., and planting is scheduled for fall 2022. The Arbor Day Committee will be planting the trees (ten trees) which will be provided by the City Tree Bank. Arbor Day Committee may also be watering the trees. Roxanne from the Planting Committee is contact point through the planting phase of the project.

Soccer fields: City will no longer maintain them. Shade Tree members are working with Dan Imhoff of the Hocking River Conservancy on planting trees at that location.

9. Old business

- FAQs about ROW are now posted to Shade Tree website, see sidebar on right side of the page.

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

- No other citizens were in attendance.

11. Next meeting: September 8 @ 7pm

12. Adjournment