

MEETING MINUTES
Athens Shade Tree Commission
September 8, 2022
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Fahl, Chair
Jim Dyer, Member
Roxanne Malé-Brune, Member
Nancy Walker, Member
Ben Ziff, City Council Rep
Katherine Ziff, Alternate member

ALSO PRESENT

Frank Fugate, Woda Cooper Companies
Mark A. Schieber, Schieber & Associates, LLC
Megan Westervelt, Athens Environment and Sustainability Commission

1. **A quorum** was established.
2. **Minutes** of the August 1, 2022 Shade Tree Commission were approved.
3. **TITLE 33: Tree Permit, Right of way Issues, Public Land**
No Title 33 items for discussion.
4. **TITLE 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**
No Title 37 items for discussion
5. **TITLE 41: Landscape Plan Review**
Kershaw Greene Phases III and IV. Frank Fugate and landscape architect Mark Schieber were in attendance to present the landscape plan and answer questions.
Kershaw Greene Phase III: Roxanne commended the tree plantings in the parking lot, all within the requirements for native trees and offering strong diversity of trees. Kershaw III landscape plan was approved.
Kershaw Greene Phase IV: Discussion re: mitigation of possible erosion with the tree planting. Roxanne noted and corrected an error in calculation of the number of trees, but all city requirements are met with the addition of a contribution of trees to the City tree bank. Kershaw IV landscape plan was approved.
6. **Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**
Katherine gave an update on progress of the City's ODNR Canopy Restoration Grant application. Katherine and Roxanne are working with Andrew Chiki to prepare the application, with help from all Shade Tree Commission members, due October 14.
7. **Subcommittee Reports**
Education, Outreach and Events: City Arbor Day celebration to be held November 4, details will be forthcoming.

Tree Planting and Data: Roxanne discussed work in progress.

New dog park on the Community Center campus: City is planting more trees, Shade Tree Commission has made recommendations as to sites, a list of trees submitted and approved by City, list has been sent to vendor. Trees will come from the tree bank. We are watching the weather as to the right time to dig the trees, nurseries are concerned about digging trees while it is still warm. The planting may need to be delayed in the interest of tree health. Athens Catholic Community Peace and Justice Committee members

are participating to mark the tree planting spots and serve as tree tenders to check on the trees during the year.

Bus Stop tree planting: Athens Arbor Day Committee will plant trees at three bus stops this fall; some sites have been identified for planting for 2023.

Riparian project: Soccer fields along the bike path out East State Street are being retired, site is next to the riparian project. City Arts, Parks, & Recreation leadership are working with the Hocking River Conservancy to plant trees at the site. Grants for Keep America Beautiful are coming forward. Shade Tree Commission member Roxanne was asked to consult with tree selection and planting.

Neighborhood Right-of-Way tree planting: The pilot is underway. Shade Tree Commission members have toured neighborhoods, reviewed aerial tree canopy maps and other data, and identified the Near East and Far East side for tree planting. Large stature trees will be planted wherever possible, medium size trees if there are considerations such as utilities. Anyone interested is asked to contact the Shade Tree Commission; the City Code Office will respond with a letter.

8. Old business

The pollinator garden program will be launched later as the year goes forward and the garden signs arrive.

Frontier Utilities is in Athens to install fiber optic cable and there have been concerns about neighbors not being notified about work to be done and damage to trees some of which are on City right-of-way. The City is working on reparations.

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

Megan Westervelt from the Athens Environment and Sustainability Commission spoke about possibilities for collaboration with the Shade Tree Commission. Chris has met with Aimee Delach and identified projects for collaboration between the two Commissions.

10. Next meeting: October 13 @ 7pm

11. Adjournment

Minutes prepared by Katherine Ziff