

MEETING MINUTES
Athens Shade Tree Commission
November 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

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

Tristan Kinnison
Grant Perry

1. **A quorum** was established.
2. **Minutes** of the October 13 Shade Tree Commission meeting were approved.
3. **Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land**
 - New commissioner appointments: Ben Ziff reported on discussion with Mayor Patterson, bringing to the meeting the decision that Commission members should live within the Athens city limits owing to the regulatory-type nature of the Commission's work. Commission members requested, by vote, that Ben discuss with Mayor Patterson the possibility of appointment of a non-voting Commission participant living outside the city serving as an advisor to the Commission, because such participant possesses qualifications valuable to the Commission.
 - 240 Columbus Road: Business owner at this address wishes to address the Athens Gateway installation landscaping adjacent to the building. (See appended sketch.) The concern is a dead tree and trees that block visibility of the building from the north and the east. The building owner wishes to improve both the appearance of the landscaping and the visibility of the building. Roxanne has visited the site and the Commission's recommendation regarding the trees is to remove the dying Spruce tree and address the other two Spruces one of which has honeysuckle growth beneath and the other with a Crab Apple tree growing into it. Tristan Kinnison was asked to have a look at the site and perhaps go with City staff or Commission members to do some light pruning on the Crab Apples.
4. **Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**
No Title 37 items for discussion.
5. **Title 41: Landscape Plan Review**
No Title 41 items for discussion.
6. **Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**
No tree canopy maintenance items for discussion.
7. **New Business**
Tree Planting Committee (Roxanne, Chair)
 - East State Street Dog Park: 20 trees have been planted. The process has brought forward the need to work out a process for coordinating responsibilities and tasks re: planting, caring for, and maintaining trees. City staff are working on this.

- Riparian project: Voinovich School is working with the Hocking Conservancy to plant 25 trees on November 12; Shade Tree Commission has provided consultation on type of trees to be planted.
- Neighborhood ROW pilot project: Ten trees to be planted this fall, with homeowners having agreed to participate. The majority of the ten trees are located in the Far East and Near East Side neighborhoods. The others are on West and South Side sites to replace large trees that had to be removed by AEP.

Event Committee (Chris, Chair)

- Chris is working with Scott on sustainability videos for the government channel.
- City Arbor Day Celebration was held on November 4 at the new East Side Dog Park. Mayor Patterson delivered the Proclamation, and a Crab Apple tree was planted with shovels painted gold for the occasion. A discussion ensued regarding the date for the City of Athens Arbor Day: whether it should continue as a movable date responsive to the weather and the schedules of other town/campus events, or whether it might change to the official national and State of Ohio Arbor Day date which is the last Friday in April.
- Athens Arbor Day Committee volunteers led by Mary Reed planted six trees at two bus stops. Four more trees will be planted this fall at a bus stop on East State Street; these are large 2.5" DBH trees and will be planted by Greenleaf. Trees provided by the City from the Tree Bank. Ann Bonner was on hand to instruct volunteers on best practice for tree planting.
- Chris will pursue the option of a Work Study student for special projects.

8. Old Business

- ODNR grant application update: Grant was not approved; City may re-apply next year if funds are available. Going forward, funds may be available from City and other sources for stump removal and additional tree planting.
- Tree City and Growth Award: Applications update given, due Friday December 2.

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

Grant Perry, graduate student in the OU Environmental Studies program, would like a fall 2023 practicum experience with the Shade Tree Commission. Chris has offered to work with him. Possible topics/projects were raised by Commission members. Mr. Perry was asked to consider his interests and his program requirements and to attend the Commission's next meeting on December 8 to discuss.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting scheduled for December 8, 2022. Although it was raised that perhaps this meeting could be cancelled, it was decided to wait and see if any agenda items come up between now and then. It was noted that the Commission had asked graduate student Grant Perry to return to the December 8 meeting.

Minutes prepared by Katherine Ziff

