

OCTOBER 1, 2024, 7:30 A.M.
THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

The City Tree Commission met at Burbank Shelter House and was called to order at 7:36 AM by Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak.

1. Welcome: Call to order and roll call - Chair/Veronica Trommer

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input type="checkbox"/> Chair Kim Landsbergen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Duke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blythe Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Zanon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fay

ALSO PRESENT:

Associate member Karla Gengler-Nowak, Director Debbie McLaughlin (via zoom), Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, Forestry Supervisor Matt Stewart, Landscape Supervisor Brett Foster, and Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Scott Zanon, Kim Landsbergen, and Associate member Libby Roach

Motion to excuse Scott from the meeting

Motioned: J.P.

First: Laura

Second: Kathy

Motion passed

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for August 6th 2024

Motioned: J.P.

First: Laura

Second: Blythe

Motion passed

3. Public participation



No public participation

4. Discussion items

- Education Outreach/Review –
 - J.P. is working with Eliese on a class for the selection of trees for yards on March 8th. Sam, Kim and JP will be teaching the class.
 - The Spotted Lanternfly post by the city went viral. Facebook got an increase of traffic to the tune of 259% on the city website.
 - The city has raised the dollar amounts so that contracts won't have to go before City Council as often. Council will be getting updates on things that departments are doing so that they aren't left in the dark.
 - The Forestry Division will be planting fifty bare root trees this fall in Thompson and Burbank Parks. They can plant 20-25 trees a day and the root system is much better than ball and burlap.
 - Matt Stewart was involved in a forestry exchange program through UCFS (formerly SMA) with the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts.
 - The size of the city is comparable to Upper Arlington. David Lefcourt is the city arborist/tree warden. Abby Bently is the assistant city arborist. Cambridge has a population of 120,000 people and is a suburb of Boston. They have a large tax base and strong tree loss mitigation program. Abby runs the program and damage caused to every tree in the city, both public and private, is subject to collection of fines for damages. There are hefty fines for trees damaged by construction. Massachusetts has state law and Cambridge has additional ordinances to mitigate tree loss and fines. They also have an ambitious reforestation program, planting 1000 trees per year.

5. Updates from staff

- Forestry
 - Staff is wrapping up inventory in management areas 4 & 5 for the year. All 3 arborists have been taking turns doing street tree inventory.
 - The tree and stump removal contract are complete. The fall nursery bid closed yesterday.

- The planting contractor is the same company that planted in the spring. This is now both the spring and fall contract.
- Parks
 - Staff will be brush hogging Northwest Kiwanis Park this winter with a brush hog to remove/hinder invasive plant growth.
- Horticulture
 - Staff has been watering constantly throughout the summer due to extremely dry conditions.
 - Horticulture staff is working on cut backs for the season and getting gateways cleaned up of debris.
- CIP
 - Parks & Forestry will be requesting a new tractor for 2025 to replace our old one.
 - Northam pickleball courts were delayed until early December.
 - The Engineering contractor will be planting trees in the city right-of-way along Fishinger Rd in November as part of the Fishinger Rd project.
 - We are happy with the current sidewalk contractor; they have been completing spot repairs on sidewalks quickly. We have also been utilizing grinding and leveling, instead of just replacing sidewalk panels when able. It is much more cost effective.
 - The city will be completing a city-wide master plan in 2026. Parks & Forestry will be working on their master plan within the city's plan in 2027.
- 6. **Friends of UA Parks** – Karla Gengler-Nowak
 - Volunteers will be working at Smith Park on October 21st. Boy scout groups will be helping at Smith.
 - Volunteers will be revisiting the sloped areas at Miller Park.
- 7. **Future meetings** – topics and location
 - Meeting at MSC in the winter months but want to meet in park settings during warmer weather.

8. Adjournment

Motioned: J.P.

First: Kathy

Second: Blythe

Meeting adjourned: 9:02 a.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary Veronica Trommer

Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak

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The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at 7:30 a.m.