

OCTOBER 7, 2025, 7:30 A.M.
THE BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER
3200 TREMONT RD

The City Tree Commission met at the board room of the Bob Crane Community Center and was called to order at 7:30 AM by Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<u> </u> Chair Kim Landsbergen	<u> X </u> Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak
<u> X </u> Kathy Duke	<u> X </u> Laura Oldham
<u> X </u> Scott Zanon	<u> X </u> Laura Fay
<u> X </u> Blythe Price	

ALSO PRESENT:

Associate member Karla Gengler-Nowak, Director Debbie McLaughlin, Park Development & Arts Superintendent Jeff Anderson, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, Forestry Supervisor Matt Stewart, Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer and Forestry Specialists Corey Oancea and Bri Reading.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Kim Landsbergen and associate member Libby Roach

Chair Kim Landsbergen' s excused absence

Note: Chair Landsbergen was able to connect virtually for a portion of the meeting including Davey Resource Group presentation- but in accordance with Ohio Revised Code she was not present as a commissioner.

Motioned: J.P.

First: Laura Oldham

Second: Scott Zanon

Motion passed

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for August 5, 2025

Motioned: J.P.

First: Kathy
Second: Blythe
Motion passed

3. Public participation

Deb Marsh – discussion about upgrade/refresh Tree Treks and brochures

4. Discussion items

a) Tree Canopy Assessment - Update from Davey Resource Group.

- The change overtime when compared with prior data (2011 and 2021) showed that overall, there were canopy gains observed, particularly in residential areas.
- Current canopy coverage is approximately 41% citywide
- Annual environmental benefits: Estimated at \$2.3 million, including \$1.2 million in stormwater benefits and 38,000 tons of carbon sequestration.
- Completion of priority planting analysis by late November and final presentation planned for December, including submission to City Council and Parks & Recreation Department.
- Commission members discussed and asked questions.

b) Leaf Management - <https://www.upperarlingtonoh.gov/306/Leaf-Collection>

- Discussed the value of leaf mulching vs. collection. Planning to improve website and social media messaging promoting the importance of nutrient recycling.
- Proposal to enhance City website messaging to encourage nutrient recycling through mulching.
- Suggestion for future social media campaign emphasizing environmental benefits.

c) Westover Oak –

- The Oak is regarded as one of the community’s noble legacy trees.
- Provide public communication/messaging explaining the reason for the eventual removal of the tree.
- The city plan to plant multiple new trees in the same area to replace canopy that will be lost from the prominent oak’s removal.

d.) Education Outreach/Review –

- FLOW is distributing 300 free trees to residents, with emphasis on planting in low-canopy neighborhoods.
- Greenfield Elementary is hosting a tree-planting event with 2nd and 3rd graders; staff are coordinating logistics to support the activity.
- A community suggestion proposed adopting an “Arlington Bug” (e.g., dragonfly) as a fun symbol for biodiversity education.

5. Updates from staff

a) General/Operational Forestry Updates

- Sam and Matt completed the ISA Prescription Training Course. The class started in the Florida Chapter and ISA has been adding classes to other states to try and standardize pruning techniques with emphasis on structural pruning for long-term tree health throughout the industry. The course was held at The Barn in Sunny 95 Park.

b) Contracts

- The tree removal contract is complete and stump grinding will begin next week.
- Fall planting is underway. We will be planting 324 trees this fall.

6. Friends of UA Parks – Karla Gengler-Nowak

FOUAP will be meeting this Saturday at Fancyburg, November at Smith Park, and in December at Northwest Kiwanis Park.

7. Future meetings – Topics and location

- Scott will try to get reservation for OSU Golf Course, but they don’t open until 8 a.m.
- We may move the December meeting to Tuesday November 25th to go over the Tree Canopy Assessment.

8. Adjournment

Motioned: J.P.
First: Scott
Second: Laura
Meeting adjourned: 9:06 a.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary Veronica Trommer

Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak

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The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 2nd at 7:30 a.m.