

FEBRUARY 10, 2026 7:30 A.M.
THE BOB CRANE COMMUNITY CENTER
3200 TREMONT RD

The City Tree Commission met at the boardroom of the Bob Crane Community Center and was called to order at 7:33 AM by Chair Kim Landsbergen

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Associate members Karla Gengler-Nowak and Libby Roach, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, Forestry Supervisor Matt Stewart, and Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Zanon

Motion to excuse Scott

Motioned: Kim

First: Laura

Second: Blythe

Motion passed

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for November 25, 2025

Motioned: Kim

First: J.P.

Second: Kathy

Motion passed



3. Public participation

No public participation

4. Election of Officers

Move to elect chair: Laura motioned to elect J.P.

Second: Kim

J.P. accepts as Chair

Move to elect Vice Chair: J.P. motioned to elect Laura

Second: Kathy

Laura accepts as Vice Chair

5. Discussion items

a.) Tree Canopy Assessment-

- Final Canopy Assessment Report completed and presented to City Council (full report and 2-page fact sheet).
- Fact sheets will be shared via the city website and social media.

b.) Arbor Day-

- America 250th Anniversary – Tree Planting: Sam received a request to plant 250 trees for America’s 250th anniversary. Her proposed alternative: a grove of 17 native trees (Ohio as the 17th state) as a symbolic planting at Sunny 95 Park, near walking path and soccer fields with the emphasis on naturalized clustering rather than symmetrical spacing.
- Likely species include native trees such as Swamp white oak, Sycamore, Bald cypress, Ohio buckeye, and Red maple.
- Ideas discussed include yard signage or tree trail signage instead of individual plaques and a potential symbolic “250th tree.”
- Collaboration with schools, Historical Society, and community groups.
- Possible sapling giveaways and educational programming were discussed.

c.) Education Outreach/Review –

- Continued discussion about the Westover Oak and identifying historic “witness trees” using GIS/shapefiles from the Historical Society.
- Opportunities to educate public on tree lifespan, preservation, and legacy plantings.
- Interest in student engagement (writing contests, school programs) and educational materials.

5. Updates from staff

a.) General/Operational Forestry Updates-

- 2025 work summary (via Treekeeper software) included 636 trees planted, 516 inspections, more than 2,400 work orders completed in-house, 247 stumps ground (now largely handled in-house).
- Contract pruning and in-house pruning are both ongoing; pruning standards have been updated following new guidelines from pruning qualification training arborists are undergoing.

b.) Contracts –

- The fall contractor planted fewer trees than planned; staff planted remaining trees and overwintered some trees.
- Spring planting includes 50/50 split between balled-and-burlap and bare-root trees.
- City tree crew will plant bare-root trees due to timing and handling requirements.
- All new trees now receive deer guards around the trunks for protection.

c.) Park Updates/CIP-

- Forestry, Parks, and Horticulture are heavily involved in snow response. They also helped Public Works with clearing snow near schools and intersections.

6. Friends of UA Parks – Karla Gengler-Nowak

- FOUAP will be meeting at Reed Rd. Park on February 21st and at Northwest Kiwanis Park on March 28th.

7. Future meetings – Topics and location

- April 7th Tree Commission meeting will be at Bob Crane Community Center.

8. Adjournment

Motioned: J.P.

First: Kim

Second: Kathy

Meeting adjourned: 9:06 a.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary Veronica Trommer

Chair J.P. Ratajczak

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The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 7th at 7:30 a.m.