

August 6, 2024, 7:30 A.M.
Thompson Park South Shelter House
2020 McCoy Rd.

The City Tree Commission met at Burbank Shelter House and was called to order at 7:34 AM by Vice-Chair Kim Landsbergen.

1. Swearing in of new Commissioners

The Deputy City Clerk, Abbie Emison, swore in Blythe Price, as a new City Tree Commissioner. She also swore in returning member J.P.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

 X Chair Kim Landsbergen

 X Vice-Chair J.P. Ratajczak

 X Kathy Duke

 Laura Oldham

 X Scott Zanon

 X Laura Fay

 X Blythe Price

ALSO PRESENT:

Associate members Libby Roach and Karla Gengler-Nowak, Director Debbie McLaughlin, Deputy City Clerk Abbie Emison, Parks & Forestry Superintendent Samantha Simmons, and Administrative Assistant Veronica Trommer.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None - Laura Oldham resigned due to commitments beyond her control.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Tree Commission meeting for June 4th, 2024

Motioned: Kim

First: Laura

Second: Scott

Motion passed

4. Public participation

No public participation



5. Election of Officers

Move to elect chair: JP motioned to elect Kim

Second: Kathy

Kim accepts as Chair

Move to elect Vice Chair: Kim motioned to elect JP

Second: Kathy

JP accepts as Vice Chair

5. Discussion items

- Education Outreach/Review –
 - Historically staff has done some classes for the Activity Guide such as Mother's Day planting, Tree ID, and other classes for the Activity Guide
 - Commissioners can flush out ideas for the next meeting. The deadlines for the Activity Guide are mid-August for the Winter issue (January, February, March) and January through March for the Fall issue.
 - Social media- group of 3 or less Commissioners to gather ideas and Sam will connect with Community Affairs to get the info. on the city website. (i.e. Spotted Lanternfly, Vines, etc.)
 - Forestry Week- Matt and Forestry Crew were highlighted in social media.
 - Plan/schedule for the coming year on social media, three or fewer commissioners to work on list of ideas.
- Boards and Commissions Updates
 - There is now training for new and retuning members. The shared drive has 1 hour of video to watch and sign off on as well as a packet of resources.

5. Updates from staff-Sam Simmons

- Forestry
 - Street tree inventory is in progress. Bri Reading (one of the city arborists) has been working on it this year.
 - Tree crew has been working on street tree and park tree work orders.
 - The removal contract is currently out to bid. The Nursery contract will be put out to bid in September. The planting contractor will begin planting in November, once we have all of the trees from nurseries. City Staff will be planting the cost share trees, as they have done for the past few years.

- The city won't be clear cutting Pear trees. We will issue permits on a case by case basis, if residents wish to remove them. It will be a slow phase out.
- The tree crew left a truckload of wood chips at Smith to put down along the pathways.
- Horticulture
 - New Horticulture Supervisor will start on August 12th Brett Foster brings with him 30 years of experience. He has previous work experience with New Albany Country Club and EMI Landscaping.
 - A new boulder garden was installed at Northam Park with evergreen screening around the new electric panels near the baseball diamond in the center path.
- CIP
 - The Community Center construction is now in full swing.
 - Northam Park – The service building, tennis, and pickleball courts should be done by the end of November. The west fields are establishing, and the east fields are scheduled to be worked on in 2026. The fence at Northam has been extended to continue construction.
- Friends of UA Parks – Karla Gengler-Nowak
 - The next FOUAP volunteer day will be August 24th at Smith Nature Park.
 - OSU is having a volunteer event on September 21st at Miller Park
 - FOUAP received a \$500.00 donation which Karla is giving to the UA Foundation (501 c3).
- 6. **Future meetings** – topics and location
 - Matt's Arborist Exchange Program details
 - February- state of the forest update
 - December meeting or break?
 - UA Master Plan
 - August 24th Audubon Tree Fest at Whetstone Park of Roses – Kim will be working a booth there.

7. Adjournment

Motioned: Kim

First: Scott

Second: JP

Meeting adjourned: 8:49 a.m.

ATTEST:

Secretary Veronica Trommer

Chair Kim Landsbergen

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The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 7:30 a.m.

