

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

City of Findlay
March 5, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Alan Brooks, Chair, Josh Blount, Jane Ebersole, Tom Mills, Aaron Osborne, Rick Watson

Members Absent: Councilman Brian Bauman

Staff Present: AJ Copus, Jaclynn Hohman

Guests Present: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry: Stephanie Miller, Haley Belisle, Kathryn Brautigan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of the February 5, 2025, meeting, by Osborne, second by Blount. Motion passed 6-0.

FINANCE REPORT

Discussed finance report for month ending February 2025.

REPORTS

City Council Report: none

Public Works Department Report: Copus deferred to the Adopt-a-Tree report.

Engineering Department Report: none

OLD BUSINESS

Arbor Day: Ben Dolan reported that University of Findlay's Arbor Day will be celebrated Friday, April 25, 2025, and Findlay City Schools' celebration will be held at Chamberlin Hill Intermediate School on Friday, May 2, 2025, from 2:00pm-3:30pm. North Branch Nursery is donating 350 seedlings for students. Chamberlin is hoping to plant an American Sycamore.

Tree City USA Awards Ceremony: The Annual Tree City USA Awards Ceremony will be held in Bowling Green on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. Tree Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$40 and registration is available online and due by April 2.

NEW BUSINESS

Findlay Tree Ordinance Discussion: We revisited the concerns presented at last meeting from Councilman DeArment, concerning Ordinance No. 2023-125 (Shade Tree Ordinance) and the sizes of tree lawn for planting large trees to replace the many aging trees in the south end neighborhoods. Steph Miller suggested the language of the tree ordinance is outdated and to consider some of the samples from Tree Commission Academy materials for updates. Conversation between Public Works whose concerns are public safety and liability for workers and the Shade Tree Commission with help from the state foresters will move this project forward. We plan to meet an extra 1-2 hours per month to work out a revision for the ordinance while the IRA grant is on "pause." Most of the Tree Commissioners are new since the writing of the Ordinance began. Stephanie has agreed to work with us as her schedule allows. She envisions this process taking maybe 6-12 hours. We will try to set these future meetings for this at the April meeting.

Adopt-A-Tree or Request A Tree-proposed name change: A.J. reported he has 16 requests for Spring Adopt-a-Tree. He hopes to order trees mid-April, and the city will plant the trees with residents paying \$25 per tree. Jane has been in conversation with St. John's Lutheran concerning a Neighborhoods project for the Fall.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52pm. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Shade Tree Commission will be held on April 2, 2025, at 4pm in the Mayor's Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ebersole