

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

City of Findlay
January 7, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Josh Blount, Jane Ebersole, Public Works Supervisor A.J. Copus, City Engineer Jeremy Kalb, Jaclynn Hohman, Tom Mills, Aaron Osborne, Bill Patch, Rick Watson.

Members Absent:

Guests Present: Tim Brugeman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of the November 5, 2025, meeting, by Watson, second by Patch. Motion passed 9-0.

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was not presented, since it was just approved the night before. Copus reported that the budget for Shade Tree Commission will be \$5300.

City Council Report: City Council representative will be appointed by City Council. Scheduled to appoint representative at the January 20, 2026, meeting of City Council.

Public Works Department Report: Copus reported that the City will probably remove 80-90 trees in 2026 plus 45 from the new Urban Prairie area on E. Main Cross. The Shade Tree Commission discussed how to get Findlay's canopy above 17%. The small and medium trees are not a good exchange of carbon capture/oxygen release compared to old growth trees and the planting of large trees.

Engineering Department Report: Kalb reported that they are getting the word out about urban forestry consultant, but no takers as yet. He hopes to contact three of the big firms in the state including Davey Tree, but said he will probably have to contact each individually to get a response.

OLD BUSINESS

Grant/RFP/Findlay Shade Tree Ordinance Updates: There is still back and forth dialogue between Steph Miller, Regional Urban Forester and City, but we are closer. The Shade Tree Commission Ordinance will probably go through three readings at City Council and be approved by the last reading February 17, 2026.

Planting Plans for the Spring: Copus will organize the Spring planting plans once the Request-a-Trees are scheduled. The Shade Tree Commission will help as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Marketing Plans: Hohman presented a 2026 Communication Schedule, which outlines the blurbs for each month that will be posted on the City's website or social media. "What our Shade Tree Commission is/does" and Request-a-Tree information will be featured in February.

Prairie Project: Copus hosted members of the Shade Tree Commission on November 12, 2025, at 1 p.m. to walk the designated Prairie area to assess trees and mark for removal. 45 trees will be removed by Spring, and we will look at "noxious weeds" vs. "native plants" for the area.

250th Anniversary Projects: The Shade Tree Commission had looked at various ideas to promote the planting of trees during the 250th birthday of America, including giving away seedlings, planting a memorial tree in Findlay (especially in light of the deterioration of the Bicentennial Burr Oak and the National Champion Hackberry Tree), asking residents for stories about the trees in Findlay which were important to them, and inviting them to nominate trees within the city which they felt made an impact on them in their youth. Watson, as part of his Tree Commission Academy Senior project, researched the national tree (designated in 2004 as the oak) and suggested maybe 250 oak seedlings could be given away to residents at the planting of the historic tree as part of the Arbor Day celebration. Perhaps a variety of oaks could be given out (e.g. Chinkapin, Swamp White, Burr are all suitable for the soil of Hancock County). Ebersole reported the Arbor Day school this year is Jacobs Preschool, and she has been in contact with the principal, Jackie Nelson.

Annual Report: Ebersole suggested that one way to make the public aware of the Shade Tree Commission and the importance of trees to the community would be to provide City Council with an Annual or Quarterly Report. No such report has been written or presented since 2021. Mills, Brugeman, and Ebersole will work on this for an upcoming Council meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting of the City of Findlay Shade Tree Commission will be held on February 4, 2026, at 4pm in the Mayor's Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Ebersole