

# SHADE TREE COMMISSION

City of Findlay  
February 4, 2026

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Public Works Supervisor A.J. Copus, Jane Ebersole, Jaclynn Hohman, Tom Mills, Councilman Reed Needles Aaron Osborne, Bill Patch, Rick Watson.

Members Absent: Josh Blount, City Engineer Jeremy Kalb

Guests Present: Tim Brugeman

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept minutes of the January 7, 2026, meeting, by Watson, second by Osborne. Motion passed 8-0.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Discussed finance report for month ending January 2026.

### **REPORTS**

Public Works Department Report: Copus reported that crews were able to get into the designated Prairie area on E. Main Cross and make great progress on the removal of the 45 trees marked in October. Only about 10 trees remain to be taken down. Area had been scraped and prepared despite the snow. Walking trails outlined by Tim Brugeman are in the works. They will not be lighted; the prairie, like many of the parks, are open from dawn to dusk.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Grant Update: Hohman reported that three businesses have been contacted for pruning/tree maintenance. Davey Resources (out of Kent, Ohio), Great Lakes Urban Forest, and Knowles Municipal Forestry (with offices also in Kent, Ohio). Davey Resources is the only business showing interest in the project.

Findlay Shade Tree Ordinance Update: The updated Shade Tree Ordinance will be on the agenda for the February 17, 2026, Council meeting.

Planting Plans for the Spring: The Request-a-Tree information will go out this week. Copus hopes to "close" the Request-a-Tree registration by March 30, 2026, and place tree orders early in April 2026. He would like the trees in and ready for planting by April 17, 2026. Arbor Day celebration will be at Jacobs Pre-School this year on Friday, April 24, 2026, (2:00-3:30 p.m.). Once Copus has a list of possible trees for the

Arbor Day school, selection can be made so that the tree will also arrive by April 17, 2026. Ebersole is still nailing down details with Principal Nelson.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Marketing Plans: Hohman reviewed items for February-April. Ebersole asked her to send a copy of the schedule to Councilman Needles.

Prairie Project: Hohman was pleased to announce that American Beverage Association and U.S. Conference of Mayors has agreed to fund the entire Urban Prairie project, including treatments, walking paths, etc. Copus reported that his team should be able to grind the area to a depth of 6"-8" effectively removing all invasive plants (honeysuckle, etc.) once all 45 trees are removed. There will be 4 applications of herbicide to prepare the area for the wildflower planting. Toledo Zoo is in partnership with the City of Findlay. Power lines have been removed or consolidated.

America 250 Projects: Tim reported that there has been a purchase of 250 oak seedling/saplings through Hancock Soil and Water. Each will be v-24" and brought from Pennsylvania to be hand bagged by Shade Tree Commission and others for distribution once the area for distribution is selected. The Hancock County 250th Celebration Oak (the State will have an oak tree for each of the 88 counties) will potentially be planted on the property of the new County Election Board office on Olive St. as part of "Ohio Commemorates America 250." Other projects will include a telling of stories called "Rooted in Findlay." This project headed by Osborne and Hohman will encourage citizens to write a short account of a tree that has been meaningful to them. We are also looking for 250 significant trees, either by circumstance, size, or age to record for posterity, perhaps with signage.

Annual Reports-Quarterly Reports: Mills and others are compiling an annual report for the year 2025 to present at the next Council meeting which will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Shade Tree Commission members are encouraged to attend.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Ebersole