

**South Euclid Tree Commission
January 10, 2018**

M I N U T E S

Call to order at 5:36 p.m.

Attendance

Joe Mehalik, Chairman
Dominic Liberatore
Debbie Wright
Dean Grida, South Euclid Arborist
Miriam Plax
Jane Goodman
Kessa Turnbull
Lenny Chormanski, South Euclid Housing Inspector
Tammy Lease-Novak, guest

Public Input: none

Introduction of prospective new Commissioner: Tammy Lease-Novak, a 5-year resident of the Bexley neighborhood, was introduced as a prospective new commission member. She recently worked on the Ward 3 Council campaign. Her name will be presented to City Council for appointment to the Tree Commission. The members introduced themselves to her as well.

Brochure review: The revised brochure was distributed. Several additional comments were made: should we include information about gravel mulch? And also several grammatical errors were noted. One more round of revision.

Facebook/IT: Kessa noted that there is now an auto-reply for anyone that asks a questions on the Tree Commission IM. Kessa, Dominic and Debbie are administrators and they will decide if the answer is simple and can be answered by them or needs to be referred to Dean. It was discussed that others on the commission need to be made administrators on the Facebook page, but that seems unnecessary. Kessa will also add the Tree Commission application to the Facebook page.

ODNR Report: At our last meeting, Alan Siewart, Urban Forester from the ODNR attended our meeting as part of his imitative to visit all tree commissions in his district. He did an analysis of functioning and sent a report that Jane distributed in December. The consensus was that we are functioning better than we thought and better than many other commissions in our district.

Review of City Tree Ordinance: Jane began the review of the Tree Ordinance. There are some minor language changes and some more substantial changes:

Appeal Process 943.29 this rose from the discussion about the need for the Tree Commission to begin hearing resident's complaints related to trees on public property that have not been resolved with the arborist. Here is the proposed process:

- Resident will file Appeal form with appropriate fee (TBD) with the Housing Department, whose finance office will process it (for a fee TBD) and the balance of the funds from the fee will be placed in the Tree Canopy Fund.
- The Appeal form will be sent to the City Arborist for review and he will notify the Tree Commission and send the form for review.
- The resident will be notified of the next meeting and must appear in person during the public portion of the meeting.
- Notice of disposition to resident within five business days following the meeting.

Changes as written were approved in the form of a motion by Debbie and seconded by Joe. Motion carried.

The draft of this and other changes will go to Council at the next meeting (1/22/18) for a first reading. Next, it will go to the Service Committee at its next meeting (within two weeks) and then back to council for approval. Once that is done, the amount of the Appeal fee will need to be determined and a plan for disseminating to the public will also need to be made.

Tree City USA Growth Award: The last time the city was the recipient of the award was 2006. We will investigate what it will take to win again in 2018. It takes 10 points from the 4 categories listed below to be considered. The application is due on 12/21/2018

- Education and Public Relations
- Partnerships
- Planning and Management
- Tree Planting and Maintenance

Here is the website to review for further discussion the next meeting:

[Tree City USA Growth Awards - The Arbor Day Foundation](#)

Donna suggested that he might offer a "Ask the Arborist" session at the South Euclid library (or at another location) that Saturday that could be part of our Arbor Day activities. (FYI-

University Heights Arborist is doing a program one hour before City Council meeting on January 16th at City Hall—saw it on Next Door today)

Arbor Day 2018: Arbor Day has been scheduled for April 27, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. We will remember the three K-9 offices we lost this year at the tree planting ceremony. It was suggested that Dogwood trees might be a good selection. The location of the ceremony could be at one of the following locations:

- The Grove at Bexley Park
- Langerdale Basin
- Oakwood Nature Preserve
- Somewhere near City Hall or the Police/Fire Station
- Pocket Park on Argonne
- Mayfield & Green

It was suggested that we invite the police departments that have K-9 programs to join us that day. Lenny will get the list of participating communities so we can send a save the date notice.

We will have a reception following the ceremony. Lenny will check to see if the Community Room will be available. Miriam will look into getting refreshments and Dominic talked about getting donated doggie toys for the K-9's.

For the next meeting: discussion of the 2018 tree inventory—how accurate is it? Review damage in the spring.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 5:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Submitted by Miriam Plax