

Findlay Shade Tree Commission (FSTC) Meeting #7 Minutes Oct 6, 2022

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Meeting was held Thursday October 6 at 11:30 am, in the Municipal Building Large Conference Room (3rd floor).

Attendance: Mayor Christina Muryn, Brian Bauman, Tom Mills, Jane Ebersole, Haley Belisle, and Jeremy Kalb. Guests Matt Cordonnier (HRPC) and Denise Grant (The Courier).

Welcome: Brian (Chairman) thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes: Minutes were distributed for September meeting and reviewed with no changes. Tom moved, Jane seconded motion to approve, vote unanimous.

Financial Report: Brian distributed report for review.

Discussion

- Magnets have been ordered with Public Works and a quote has been received for shirts.

Reports

- **Mayor's Office** – Mayor Muryn discussed the overall goals of the commission including setting goals to understand and increase the tree canopy. Ordinance changes will help the area plant more trees as we update planting parameters such as distance to water lines and defined tree lawn areas. The American Rescue Plan allows for 650 trees to be planted around the community using outreach projects to plant new trees or replace problem trees. Flood mitigation efforts are underway in the county by transforming empty lots along the river. Plans are underway to add green infrastructure/natural landscape through the Shade Tree budget or through department budget. The Park District will identify areas of possible property acquisitions along trails. The City Strategic Plan will have environmental goals that include the tree canopy and looking for ways to incorporate green infrastructure. The University of Findlay is identifying areas they could incorporate more tree canopy. Engineering Dept and ODOT are looking for main corridors to increase plantings. Discussions with AEP have led to updates with burying lines.
- **City Council Representative** – Brian: No report.
- **Public Works Department (PWD)** – No report.
- **Engineering Department** – Jeremy: GIS updates are being planned with tree data being imported from Regional Planning. ODOT is planting landscapes at on/off ramps that would be on city maintenance. The STRICT Center updates include Council approval of preliminary sitework for the burn building, construction for phase 1 is starting next month, plans are coming in to prep for trees with input from FSTC, and finalized site work is planned for spring/early summer. The Dept received a glowing review for the Public Works Dept after a recent tree removal. Upcoming projects include Greenway Trail and the STRICT Center. The Dept is removing 8 trees along a pedestrian bridge and planting 20 trees back. These will be purchased through an EPA grant and some will be purchased by the Part District with a grant.

Old Business

- **Brian discussed the draft Ordinance** that has been presented with minor changes from Zoning. The draft is now with Kathy for review with the mayor. If approved, it will be sent to Council. Tom discussed the potential future position of Urban Forester which could include salary funding through the State or the Community Foundation. Discussion included that the position could not be committed to the budget at this time.

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New Business

- **Neighborwoods** – Six trees on site (3 spring snow crab apple and 3 eastern redbud) at the Family Center to be planted on the Friday before Adopt-A-Tree
- **Adopt-A-Tree** – Planned for October 15 from 9a – 12p
- **Time-Sheets** – Brian reminded everyone to fill out volunteer hours when submitting the Tree City USA Application
- **Tree Commission Academy** is open for sessions in January.

With no further business, Brian adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.

Next meeting will be Thursday November 3 at 11:30 am in Municipal Building.

Submitted by
Haley Belisle