

Findlay Shade Tree Commission (FSTC) Non-Quorum Meeting Minutes May 2, 2024

Meeting was held on May 2, 2024 at 11:36 am, in the Municipal Building Large Conference Room.

Attendance: Brian Bauman, AJ Copus, Jane Ebersole, Jeremy Kalb, and Tom Mills. Also in attendance was Jaclynn Hohman, City Project Manager.

Welcome: Brian (Vice Chair) thanked everyone for attending. Without a quorum, no action items were discussed.

Minutes: April and March meeting minutes will be presented at next meeting.

Reports

- **City Council Representative** – No report.
- **Public Works Department (PWD)** – With 12 Adopt-a-Tree (AAT) residents, one Arbor Day tree (Bigelow Hill), 10 trees at the MCPA plus the 130 Request-a-Trees (RAT): a total of 153 trees will be planted this spring. PWD provided additional reports for the AAT/RAT events.
- **Engineering Department** – Jeremy reported lots of bids on waterlines, the Howard Path and roadway utility plans.

Old Business

- **Canopy Restoration Project** – AJ reported that the first phase of the Request a Tree project was complete, with trees due to be planted in the next weeks. We are checking into a recommended watering schedule from the Arbor Day Foundation, which could be e-mailed to residents. Fall plans will need to start early as grant money will end December 31, 2024.
- **Adopt-A-Tree** – Participants picked up trees and received handouts on April 27th without issue. Huge thanks for PWD workers present for city-wide trash drop off event who helped direct participants.
- **Arbor Day** – Celebration was held at Bigelow Hill Intermediate School on April 26th where they planted an Eastern Redbud. Compliments to the City by members of the STC.
- **Celebrate Earth & Arbor Day** – Event at the Findlay Library hosted by the Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers was held on April 20th. FSTC was represented with display and handouts. Haley was present to answer questions from the public and fellow volunteers.
- **Homegrown Habitat** – Event featuring author and entomologist Doug Tallamy was held on April 27th.
- **Banners** – Compliments to the City by members of the STC about the new Tree City banners.

New Business

- **Community Plans** – There was discussion about the riparian areas between the Little Red School House and SR 568 being cleared of Callery pears so that good native trees could be planted. Jane mentioned that an offer of help was made by Rich Kozlovski from the Blanchard Valley Watershed Partnership (www.blanchardriver.org) to help with this maintenance. Brian talked about a project for the adjacent Brucklacher Park, where the Kiwanis hopes to put in a new pathway in front of the school house along with benches and a swing set.
- **Urban Forest** – Regional Forester, Stephanie Miller, and the Mayor are looking at ways to utilize the monies for planting plans and pruning to manage our aging urban forest and protect residents from at-risk tree hazards, while increasing our future canopy.
- **NeighborWoods** – Brian looking at West Park area for NeighborWoods possibilities. The property currently belongs to Findlay City Schools.

With no further business, Brian adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.

Meetings will be suspended for the mid-summer. Next meeting will be Thursday August 1, 2024 at 11:30 AM in the Municipal Building. Scribed by Jane Ebersole and submitted by Haley Belisle.