



**MINUTES  
TREE ADVISORY BOARD  
Via Zoom  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021  
4:00pm**

**Members Present:**

Nancy Moore, Council Chair  
Ann Williams, Council Member  
Nate Smith, Citizen Member  
Tim Kalan, Citizen Member  
Ted Auch, Citizen Member  
George Eaton Citizen Member  
Charles Orlowski, Superintendent of Forestry  
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works

**Also Present:**

Kelly Baker, Recording Assistant, Public Works  
Zoom Attendee - Amora

**CALL TO ORDER – 4:03pm**

**Nancy Moore, Council Chair**

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

**Nancy Moore, Council Chair**

Council Chair Moore asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the August 10, 2021, minutes. There were none, a motion was made by Citizen Member Kalan, it was seconded and the motion was approved.

Council Chair Moore stated she was proud of the work the board has accomplished in 2021.

**FORESTER'S REPORT**

**Charles Orlowski, Superintendent of Forestry**

Forester Orlowski stated that between designing the Street Tree Master Tree Plan and receiving the numerous grants they received the department has accomplished a lot. He stated that the Forestry crew and he helped the county develop an infomercial on how to care for trees and why they are so necessary. Director Speese stated that they also were able to get an increase in the tree assessment. Forester Orlowski continued to update the board on pruning (1,577 trees [11.6 miles of roadway]) and planting (498 trees) that the city has completed through mid-October of this year. He stated it has been a productive year.

**GRANT UPDATE****Healthy Urban Tree Canopy**

Forester Orłowski stated that they applied to ODNR for the Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program which is a 50/50 match and are asking for \$20,000 with the city matching with another \$20,000. We will focus on planting in Lower Lake, Southerly Park and Hildana Park. He stated that Hildana was chosen because some of the trees there are aging out. This grant will allow them to plant 75 trees between the three parks.

**BOISE Grant**

He mentioned that the Boise Grant has been delayed. They will have ½ the trees planted in the fall by the city contractor and then in the spring Boise will send volunteers to assist in planting the remaining trees.

**Urban Tree Canopy Restoration Grant**

Forester Orłowski said with the Urban Tree Canopy Restoration Grant they planted 143 trees on Van Aken.

**ONAWAY PARK PROJECT****Nate Smith, Citizen Member**

Citizen Member Smith stated that the application for a \$1,000 CSWD grant for this project was an easy process and will use the funds for planting trees at the park. Council Chair Moore stated that there will be a grant available in the spring as well.

**NO-MO PILOT PROGRAM****Ann Williams, Council Member**

Council Member Williams stated that the NO-MO Pilot came out of the Storm Water Management sub-committee of the Sustainability Committee and they are designating certain areas where there will be signage stated there will not be mowing to allow the natural growth of pollinator plants and native plants. Director Speese stated there are two areas. One is on the south side of South Park Blvd, across from Hathaway Brown School. Previously the city had mowed up to the creek bed and now they will only mow the first two strips near the streets. The second area is on the northwest corner of South Park Blvd. and Lee Rd. They are mowing only two strips near the streets so there is no obstruction for motorists.

Council Chair Moore stated the other good part is that any time they don't have to bring out heavy equipment it reduces our carbon footprint and avoids damaging the turf when the machines get stuck in the flood plain of the Doan Brook because of wet and soggy terrain. She stated that they will be planting Button Bush and Silky Dogwood which are native plants that will fill in nicely to that area.

Council Chair Moore stated that when the Doan Brook floods water will uproot the trees on the borders. Forester Orłowski stated that last year they had to bring in a contractor to pull almost thirty (30) trees that were uprooted and making their way to plug up the invert culvert pipes. This can cause backup in to the surrounding yards/homes.

**Private Property Tree Removal Ordinances****Ted Auch, Citizen Member**

Citizen Member Auch gave a power point presentation about private property tree removal ordinances. He stated that in the research that he had done he found a number of templates to use if the city wants to try to create a program. He mentioned Highland Heights has good information such as stating what good trees do and about permits required in order to remove a private property tree. He discussed some of the cities fees, rules, exceptions and penalties. Citizen Member Auch mentioned other cities such as Euclid, Mayfield Village and Strongsville that all have similar ordinances.

He believes if there was a fee it would have to be substantial in order for residents to choose to keep a tree rather than remove it. He also stated that in Euclid in order to remove a tree you need to plant a tree.

Director Speese stated that personally she believes the thought of not removing healthy trees is a good idea and would not remove trees from her own property without replacing the tree. She stated that the Forester is already pulled in too many directions and we are having staffing issues and have not had a lot of applicants for the two new openings in the forestry department.

Council Chair Moore stated that she thought maybe the TAB could take the permit program idea through the environmental committees and if they felt there was merit then they would present it to the administration with staffing implementation. She stated sometimes these issues don't get done in year one but maybe in year five. Director Speese stated she agreed with the process but added that there isn't a day that in this community private property trees aren't being taken down and wanted to make sure that everyone understands the magnitude of such a program. Stating this could be a huge undertaking.

Council Member Williams stated the process makes sense and appreciates the power point and research. She stated a word of caution of push back from the residents and maybe take a run at the administration first. Director Speese stated that was a great idea and there will be lots of opinions. She suggested maybe first try a form online for a permit and not doing an inspection and taking residents at their word until we determine if it will work.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

#### **Nancy Moore, Council Chair**

2021 Heritage Tree Award – Council Chair Moore stated that the recipients, Doug and Joan Bewley were so excited to receive this award.

Tree News – Council Chair Moore stated she finished the Tree News and Forester Orlowski will review and approve.

Director Speese thanked the TAB and stated that maybe they should meet more than 4 times a year and will leave that to the board to decide. She mentioned the 174 free trees received through grant funding and the assessment increase that will allow more trees to be planted. Also mentioned was that council added \$25,000 more for trees in the general fund that aren't covered by the tree assessment. Forester Orlowski said that the County came out to inspect the Van Aken Project and said this is the best they've seen.


Council Chair Moore will send the Mayor's Letter Review 2022 to the TAB for feedback.

Citizen Member Kalan asked the Forester if the city has a plan for Spotted Lantern Fly and baiting any Trees of Heaven. Forester Orlowski stated that he has been keeping an eye on them and they have not made it to our area, but unfortunately, because we don't use pesticides in the city, we need to figure out how to tackle the problem. Council Chair Moore stated that we have Tree of Heaven at the Shaker Cemetery.

Tree Advisory Board 2022 Meetings-TBD – with possibility of additional dates.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Nancy Moore, Council Chairperson  
Tree Advisory Board