



Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 4:00 pm
Commission Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Morgan Drabik-Hamshare, Kippie Loughlin, John Parker, Commissioner Waddington

Staff Present: Arin Blair, Sarah Chiappone, Scott Kromer, Nate Leimeister, Elisabeth Sowecke

Old Business

All members were in agreement to make John Parker Chairman and Kippie Loughlin Vice-Chair for 2023.

Approval of Minutes from November was tabled. Forestry Foreman, Nate Leimeister presented the following tree stats:

Tree Stats (January 1st to March 21st):

33	Removed (including @ Oakland Cemetery)
38	Stumps Removed
31	Limb-Up
29	Complete Trims
106	Young Tree Training
5	Storm Clean-Up

55 Trees will be planted Spring 2023:

5	Crimson King Maple
5	Dawn Redwood
10	Tulip Poplar
10	Ivory Silk
5	Gingkoes
12	Plum
2	Lotus
1	Tree in Veterans Park
5	Replacements

Mr. Leimeister further confirmed that maintenance on DT tree grates was performed; they were made bigger and debris and trash were cleaned out. The new bucket truck is in daily use.

Mr. Loughlin questioned how the City achieves species diversity, and Mr. Leimeister explained that Forestry staff are planting block by block. Right now, we don't have the diversity we need. When Mr. Leimeister started, the City was comprised of 43% Maples and now it is down to 39%. We'll continue to plant Maples but not as many. Planting block by block also helps Forestry keep track of species with such a high volume of trees in the City.

New Business

City Planner, Arin Blair presented details of the Columbus Avenue improvements that are currently in the 60% design phase. The plan emphasizes a high canopy of trees, and consideration for space and depth for those trees to thrive is being factored into the plan. Ms. Blair shared various conceptual images and reviewed the details of potential beds. The landscape architect team will be working directly with Mr. Leimeister to identify 3-4 species for the future construction project.

Ms. Drabik-Hamshare questioned who would be responsible for downtown maintenance, such as cleaning up leaves and Ms. Blair indicated that the Public Realm staff would likely handle those day-to-day responsibilities. Additionally a newly formed organization, Destination Sandusky, may play a role as the City continues to grow. Mr. Kromer clarified that the street sweeper would continue to maintain the downtown streets as well. Additionally, Ms. Blair indicated that an irrigation system would be built into the project. Mr. Arthur expressed concern that the project would be completed without consideration for long-term daily maintenance. Mr. Parker questioned the timeline, and Ms. Blair indicated that it is a 2023-2024 project.

An Arbor Day tree planting is planned to take place at Sandusky Intermediate School on Buchanan Street. Mr. Arthur asked if additional trees would be planted in Huron Park. Mr. Kromer indicated that Warren Street will be under construction so once that is complete, Forestry will consider another planting.

Plans for a mulching demonstration at the library in May were reviewed and discussed.

The meeting can be viewed in-full here: [City of Sandusky Tree Commission Meeting 03 21 2023 - YouTube](#).