



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

Landscape Board

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Jane Allinder, Chair
Matt Winger, Vice Chair
Mark DiGiando, Secretary
Kevin Dengel
Chris Schuett

Nichole Butler, Clerk

Monday, June 24, 2024

6:00 PM

Committee Room

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Winger called the June 24, 2024 meeting of the Landscape Board to order at 6:03 p.m. The agenda was published on June 21, 2024.

B. ROLL CALL

Staff in attendance: Stephania Ferrell, Director of Parks; Recreation
Nichole Butler, Clerk; Julie Predieri, Forestry Supervisor

Present 4 - Kevin Dengel, Mark DiGiando, Chris Schuett, and Matt Winger

Absent 1 - Jane Allinder

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

** Note: Minutes from the February 14th meeting were not voted on at the March 20th meeting as Jane Allinder wished to abstain from voting and therefore there was not a quorum and requested to table the vote until the May 26th Meeting. **

Landscape Minutes 03.20.2024

A motion was made by Schuett, seconded by DiGiando, to approve the March 20th, 2024 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Dengel, DiGiando, Schuett and Winger

Absent: 1 - Allinder

02.14.24 Minutes

A motion was made by Winger, seconded by DiGiando, to approve the February 14th, 2024 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Dengel, DiGiando, Schuett and Winger

Absent: 1 - Allinder

D. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

E. HEARING OF VISITORS

F. OLD BUSINESS

Comprehensive Landscape Plan

Ferrell provided a red lined copy of the Comprehensive Landscape Plan. Ferrell stated that since the changes had been previously approved by the Landscape Board, a vote is not necessary. However, if changes are made, a new vote will be required before the recommendation for approval can go forward to Council. Predieri stated that an additional change will need to be made to the document striking the referenced Standards and Specifications document. That document no longer exists and should be removed from page 5. Ferrell stated that the document is on a review schedule every three (3) years, and if revisions are made sooner than that timeline, they can be reviewed and added as needed. Schuett requested to have more time to review before recommending for approval.

Comprehensive Landscape Plan Red Line

G. NEW BUSINESS

Loop Rd Crescent Street Trees

Director Ferrell stated that it is part of the purview of the Landscape Board to review and recommend to the City Engineer comments in response to street tree plans for new development. Ferrell stated that the plans presented are part of Crescent Woods, however, are a separate space from what was previously reviewed by the Board. Predieri stated that plans presented have been reviewed and labeled with requested information based on the board's recommendations on the last project.

A motion was made by DiGiando seconded by Schuett to recommend for approval the street tree plan as presented.

Yes: 4 - Dengel, DiGiando, Schuett and Winger

Absent: 1 - Allinder

Crescent Loop Street Tree

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS**I. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT**

Dengel stated that he wanted to discuss communication regarding street tree removal. Dengel stated that in his neighborhood the sidewalk program is currently being implemented and some street trees are being taken down. Dengel stated that his neighbors are looking for what happens next. Dengel stated that the neighborhood received a packet of information regarding the sidewalk program from the Department of Engineering however there is nothing regarding the trees. Dengel asked if there can be information included regarding street trees and next steps, as well as a timeline, prior to trees being marked for removal. Dengel introduced Aaron Koch, a resident to discuss his concern.

Aaron Koch, 1035 Cloverly Drive, Gahanna, OH 43230 stated that improvement of the communication for the removal of trees for any reason, would give the residents more planning time. Koch stated that he would like to see information sent to residents regarding timeline and what to expect, as well as expectations of the residents. Koch stated that he is referring to removal of the hazard trees on Ridenour.

Predieri stated that the department had the ability and funds in 2024 to identify and remove hazard street trees proactively. The initial project began in Harrison Pond with the Ash trees and is now geared towards hazard trees on Ridenour Rd. Predieri stated that this is the first year for a city funded street tree replacement program. Predieri stated that residents are provided with options for trees for replacement and will work directly with the Parks department. Dengel asked if the communication was done prior to the removal of the trees. Ferrell stated that there is communication sent to the residents stating that trees are being removed and presenting information regarding replacement. Predieri stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is working with the Department of Engineering to get on the same page regarding communication of the street trees impacted by the sidewalk program, as the Engineering Department is responsible for removals of the trees impacted and the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the replacement. Predieri stated that the Department is not trying to eliminate the diverse canopy, However, a lot of what is already in place is hazardous. DiGiando asked how the residents are being communicated regarding replacement trees from sidewalk removals. Predieri stated that any resident affected by the street tree removal during the sidewalk program, received a letter with a link to contact the City Forester regarding replacement. Predieri stated that the residents who sign up regarding replacement are contacted with choices, timelines, and

information. Ferrell stated that the P&R Department is in constant communication with the Department of Engineering in the planning process of the next years sidewalk programs as the changes to the sidewalk affects the future growth of the trees depending on the expansion or overlay of the current sidewalks. Ferrell stated that the P&R Department will continue to be involved and communicate as the responsibility of street trees shift from the homeowners to the City.

Dengel stated that in 2017, the Landscape Board approved the landscape plans for the roundabouts in Gahanna, and that the landscape plan is not currently being followed. Predieri stated that this falls under the Department of Public Service currently and is maintained by an outside contractor. Predieri stated that the hope of the P&R Department is to hire enough horticultural staff in the future to help take on this responsibility but does not currently have the staffing to manage the roundabout landscape themselves.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Nichole Butler
Clerk

*APPROVED by the Landscape Board, this
day of 2024.*

Jane Allinder