



# City of Gahanna

## Meeting Minutes

### Landscape Board

200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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

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Wednesday, May 12, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual

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**Meeting Call-in Details: +1 513-306-4583, Conf. ID: 397 156 7#**

#### **A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Allinder, Chair, called the May 12, 2021 Regular Landscape Board meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

#### **B. ROLL CALL**

**Present** 5 - Matt Winger, Mark DiGiando, Chris Schuett, Chair Jane Allinder, and Kevin Dengel

Staff in attendance Stephania Bernard-Ferrell, Director, John Morehead, City Engineer, Julie Predieri, City Forester, Tim Fleischer, Horticulturist, and Ellen Ore, Administrative Assistant.

#### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Winger, seconded by Schuett, to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting. The motion carried with the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Winger, Schuett, Chair Allinder and Dengel

**Abstain:** 1 - DiGiando

[2021-0083](#)

LB mins 1-13-2021

#### **D. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA- NONE**

#### **E. HEARING OF VISITORS**

Ferrell introduced the new Horticulturist, Tim Fleischer. He is a Gahanna resident and knows the community well.

**F. OLD BUSINESS- NONE****G. NEW BUSINESS****i. Sidewalk Program**

Ferrell introduced John Morehead, City Engineer. Morehead stated staff will present a sidewalk maintenance program to City Council. Sidewalk Maintenance Programs in general are tools that a lot of local communities in Ohio are using to get their sidewalk networks maintained in a continuous planned fashion. In City code it is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain sidewalks; however, they are not well maintained and passable. There is a special assessment to pass the cost of the sidewalk repairs with the City, paid back by the residents over a five-year 0% interest period. To do that, new City code needs passed for sidewalk maintenance.

Morehead indicated he is here tonight to discuss how trees effect sidewalks. One of the ways to help homeowners deal with some of the tree and sidewalk problems is that if the tree has caused the sidewalk to upheave, and those trees are on the prohibited tree list within the Comprehensive Landscapes Plan (CLP), we are expecting the city to take those trees down and grind the stumps, if the City maintains the sidewalk.

If the tree is not on the prohibited list and causes problems, the City Forester can evaluate to see if root pruning or other means to save the tree can be done to keep it in place. The goal is to save as many trees as possible, but root pruning may lead to its early demise. We don't want to fix someone's sidewalk and leave a tree that will only cause that sidewalk to uplift again. The code changes in Chapter 913 has a prohibited tree list that is different from what is in the CLP. The goal is to use the CLP as a reference point for what trees we do or do not want in the City.

Winger asked how the cost will be calculated. Morehead advised the cost would be specific to the resident's frontage.

Schuett asked if this will apply to homes that currently do not have a sidewalk. Morehead indicated no; this is just a sidewalk maintenance program.

Dengel asked if he chooses a company to fix his sidewalk and they do a horrific job, what happens next, will he be cited by the City and will there be a list of companies to work with initially.

Morehead indicated they will not have a list of companies to use but there

will be a “blacklist” of the bad ones. Morehead indicated the homeowner will be given a preaddressed letter to opt out of the program if they want to do the repairs themselves. The City then asks the homeowner to apply for a right of way permit, which is free, and the city’s inspectors will oversee the contractor’s efforts.

[2021-0084](#)

Sidewalk Program

## **ii. Chapter 913 Landscaping Requirements**

### **913.03 CITY AND LANDSCAPE BOARD RIGHTS**

Ferrell said that the CLP identifies injurious plants is by prohibited. The word prohibited should also be included in the injurious definition. It would be an improved process to include sidewalks and multi-use paths wording within 913.03(b). The code that exists today does include those but defining them specifically will help to better define.

### **913.04 DEFINITIONS.**

Ferrell stated in 913.04(3) having and including the wording Refer to the Comprehensive Landscape Plan for a list of injurious or prohibited plants and then removing the actual list from code is a requested.

### **913.10 STREET TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS**

Ferrell stated injurious is highlighted with the same reference and the updated language would read:

Species not Permitted to be Planted on Public Property or Utility or Drainage Easements within the City. Trees prohibited from being planted in the street tree lawn, or within a drainage or utility easement, are defined in the City’s Comprehensive Landscape Plan. The City Landscape Board must approve, prior to planting, all species of trees to be planted in the street tree lawn.

Predieri indicated in reading the last sentence of 913.10(i) it says The City Landscape Board must approve, prior to planting, all species of trees to be planted in the street tree lawn. Currently, the CLP doesn’t have a list of approved trees, only a list of prohibited trees. Ferrell said it references the document however, if the document doesn’t have the language that is required, the Landscape Board would have to make those approvals. Just because the tree is not on the prohibited list it doesn’t mean any tree outside that list makes sense for a particular street lawn. It makes sense to be able to refer back to the guidance and

expertise of the City Forester and the Arbor Team so that's where the CLP comes into play to make sure this code is efficient for the resident and the sidewalk program. Making sure what is planted is best suited for space, location and species identified. The prohibited list is City wide and is in the CLP and that list is due to be reviewed again next summer. Predieri indicated the tree list will be reviewed more frequently as many trees were removed to keep it more up to date.

Winger asked if it's as easy as changing the sentence to say "as directed by the City Forester" instead of "as approved by the Landscape Board?" Ferrell indicated yes, or that sentence could be stricken.

Predieri agreed it would be appropriate to strike. Current code does not require a removed tree to be replaced. If a resident asks for a replacement, Predieri meets with them to review the code on a case by case basis for a decision. Currently, there is no list of recommended trees. Predieri is moving towards a "right tree-right place" mentality vs a list of good or bad trees. At this time that's why the list is prohibited only but the list could change if trees become problematic.

Schuett asked for clarification on section 913.04 DEFINITIONS section in regard to the box of listed trees with lines through them. Ferrell indicated it is struck through as we are referring directly to the CLP and not listing it in code.

Ferrell stated the last sentence of 913.10(i) will be stricken. The City Landscape Board must approve, prior to planting, all species of trees to be planted in the street tree lawn.

**A motion was made by Winger, seconded by Dengel, to recommend to Council to approve the proposed changes to Chapter 913 Landscaping Requirements**

**Yes:** 5 - Winger, DiGiando, Schuett, Chair Allinder and Dengel

[2021-0085](#)

Chapter913

## **H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS- NONE**

## **I. POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT**

Dengel indicated he wanted to congratulate Predieri and everyone involved in getting the Arboretum finalized and with the ribbon cutting. It will be a great addition to our community.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

*APPROVED by the Landscape Board, this  
day of 2021.*

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Jane Allinder  
Chair