

Tree Advisory and Education Board  
Minutes February 12,2025

Attendees: Sam Bonvissuto, Linda Grandstaff, Patrick Costello, Alex Martin, Rita Stevens, Matt Bixenstine, Mary Kennedy

The meeting began at 6:05 pm. Based on a motion by Rita, seconded by Matt, the minutes of the January 8, 2025 were unanimously approved as submitted.

The board discussed the Spring Community Canopy Tree Giveaway. The number of trees will be doubled to 200 and the species will include 4 understory/ornamental trees suitable for smaller properties including Pagoda Dogwood, Allegheny Amelanchier, American Hornbeam and Redbud, 2 midsize trees including Blackgum and Sweet Bay Magnolia (since Ohio Buckeye is unavailable in the size and quantity desired) and 2 large canopy trees, including Chinquapin Oak and River Birch. The contract with Arbor Day Foundation has been signed, per Jill Bartolotta's email, and the system will go live on 4/3/2025 and pickup date will be 4/26/2025, in conjunction with Keep Lakewood Beautiful Earth Day Cleanup. Communications will include a water bill notice in the March bill, social media posts on 3/20 and Lakewood Observer articles on 2/28 and 3/19. Matt and Rita will coordinate communications and Linda will begin recruiting volunteers for pick up day. Linda will begin to explore survey applications to survey 2024 participants and Mary shared map of the spring and fall 2024 tree giveaway distribution which shows a fairly good citywide distribution, with room for increased distribution in Ward 4.

Additional discussion of educational outreach took place. In addition to Earth day, the board will participate in the Lakewood Community Festival on 9/6/2025 and Welcome to Lakewood event on 11/12/2025. Additionally, Linda will explore the donation of tree related books for the Madison Park and Kauffman Park storyboards that are managed by the Lakewood Public Library, with potential funding by the Lakewood Garden Club. Mary recommended Project Learning Tree. Allison, who was unable to attend, is exploring the steps needed to develop a Lakewood Community Arboretum.

The Forestry Department reported that 200 trees will be planted by Greenleaf this spring and species to be included are being selected. This will include large canopy trees on its property. Over 20 trees were saved related to water main work on Northland and Norton. A few hazardous trees are slated for removal.

The meeting ended at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Grandstaff, Chair/Secretary