

Tree Advisory and Education Board  
Minutes 6/11/2025

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Sam Bonvisutto, Allison Welch, Alex Martin, Rita Steven's, Matt Bixenstine, Mary Kennedy, Bryan Evans

The Zoom meeting began at 6:01 pm.

After a motion by Rita and second by Allison, the May minutes were approved as submitted.

The board discussed several outreach plans. First, a meeting has been scheduled with Laura Jaissle at Cove Community Center to discuss the board's possible assistance with the development of an intergenerational outdoor learning program for which Cove has received a small grant. These may include self-guided tree and nature walks along with plant signage and related materials.

Additionally, the board is asked to review the tree related materials on the city's website and identify gaps and an overall framework that could assist residents in finding the information that they are looking for. The board will review the materials and look at other resources to guide this effort.

The board will participate in the September 6 Lakewood Community Festival, possibly in conjunction with the Friends of Madison Park and GardenWalk Lakewood.

The board discussed the proposed mission statement for the Lakewood Ohio Community Arboretum.

"The Lakewood Arboretum is committed to cultivating a community that deeply values trees by demonstrating their ecological, economic, and community health benefits. Through living examples of "right tree, right place," immersive outdoor learning, and community participation in reforestation efforts, we empower residents to preserve and expand our urban canopy. As both a sanctuary from the built environment and a model for biodiversity in a densely populated city, the arboretum strengthens Lakewood's identity as a place where nature and people thrive together."

The next steps is to articulate the vision, a citywide Arboretum and goals to be achieved and minimum requirements to implement. The work with Cove will be a pilot of potential educational approaches to use in conjunction with the proposed arboretum.

The board discussed the potential for a mini-forest. The initial site suggested is under contract but the board was encouraged to explore the acquisition of some of the green space bordering I-90, currently owned by ODOT, but maintained by Lakewood.

The fall tree giveaway was discussed. The pickup date will be October 11 and species will be determined by the end of July.

The Forestry Department reported on progress on stump grinding, the seasonal help watering the spring planted trees. The board requested a list of the trees that the city is currently using on tree lawns and public property. There was some discussion of "right tree for various tree lawn conditions (size of tree lawn, wires overhead or not, etc.)

Matt share the survey result of 2024 tree giveaway participants (59/200) with the board. There was a 95% survival rate, 88% would strongly recommend the program and 60% planted the trees in their backyard. Next year, the board will explore the Arbor Day Foundation survey capabilities. The following impact statement was provided by Arbor Day Foundation.



## 2025 IMPACT REPORT

Planting trees in communities is about so much more than planting trees. It's about planting a more hopeful future, street by street. Thank you for joining the Arbor Day Foundation to plant a better world.

**400**

Trees Planted

**149,481**

kWh Saved

**\$45,773**

In Combined Energy and  
Community Benefits

**400**

Homeowners Engaged

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
BENEFITS:**

IMPACT OVER 40 YEARS

**200.6**

metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>  
avoided/sequestered

**1.14**

tons air pollution  
removed

**1,534,042**

gallons avoided  
water runoff



ARBORDAY.ORG

There was a discussion of the board succession plan. Matt volunteered to be the secretary and the board unanimously selected Rita to become the Chair when Linda leaves the board at the end of the year.

The board agreed with Linda's recommendation that we participate in the cuyahoga tree collaboration being organized by Roy Larick of Euclid's Tree Commission.

The formal July meeting will be cancelled and the board and Forestry team are invited to a pot luck at Linda's on July 9. Details will be sent out separately.

The meeting ended at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Grandstaff, Chair/secretary