

Tree Advisory and Education Board  
August 9, 2023 Minutes

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Sam Bonvisutto, Matt Krems, Patrick Costello, Bob Gorentz, David Sangree, Sarah Kepple, Alex Martin, Rita Stevens

The meeting came to order at 6:04 pm.

The minutes of June 16, 2023 were unanimously approved following a motion by Rita and second by David.

The second Most Distinguished Tree Contest is underway and as of the meeting there were about 25 nominations with a couple of weeks left. The board discussed providing plaques to the winners of each category and certificates to all nominees.

The board discussed the Tree giveaway pilot to encourage private property tree planting. The board approved the draft emails to the Mayor and the Finance and Law Departments to seek support and potential funding from the Gift a Tree Fund. The board is looking at an early October pilot but that may change based on tree availability.

The Forestry Department provided the board with an update. Some hazardous trees have been taken down and the department is waiting for school to start on some that are close to schools. There was discussion of ODNR and County grants for fall tree plantings (130 and 85 respectively.) Stump removals are beginning also.

The board discussed a resident request for a memorial tree with plaque. Melissa Garrett provided information to Sam that plaques are not being placed on trees but that the city is accepting memorial gifts for benches with plaques at Cove Park.

The board discussed the aspirational lakefront plans for Lakewood Park and whether any consideration of tree canopy impact is incorporated in the planning. All plans, for which there is no current funding, include removal of brush and weed trees from the slope. There was discussion of quality of trees, the desire for sweeping vistas, the use of offset with tree plantings elsewhere, etc. There is an open window for comment and Linda will draft a letter from the board.

The meeting ended at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Grandstaff, Chair/Secretary