

## **Tree Advisory and Education Board Minutes 8/13/2025**

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Rita Stevens, Mary Kennedy, Matt Bixenstine, Allison Welch, Sam Bonvisutto, Alex Martin

The Zoom meeting began at 6:02 p.m.

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

### **Fall Tree Giveaway**

- We landed on the following tree species for the Fall Giveaway: Allegheny Serviceberry, American Basswood, Black Cherry, Black Gum, Florida Dogwood, Paw Paw, River Birch and Sweetbay Magnolia. We'll have 25 trees from each variety, giving us 200 total trees.
- Our Arbor Day Foundation tree portal will launch at 10 am on Wednesday, September 17.
- Tree delivery will be made to the City of Lakewood on October 9 or 10 with Sam Bonvisutto serving as the delivery point person. Sam's preference is to have delivery take place on October 10.
- A Tree Pickup Event will be held from 10 am to noon on Saturday, October 11, at Bernice Pyke Park.
  - For our tree planting demonstration, we will seek to replace a deceased dogwood.
- Our Tree Giveaway marketing plan will consist of the following:
  - A flyer for the Community Festival
  - A submission to the Lakewood Observer
  - A blurb in the City's water bill to residents (due to Melissa Garrett by Sept. 3)
  - Social media posts for the City's accounts will be coordinated with Melissa Garrett and Kevin Wayner
  - Key messaging: Fall is the best time of year to plant trees

### **Lakewood Community Festival**

- Linda submitted an application for our Tree Board and Friends of Madison Park to share a booth during the Community Festival taking place on Saturday, Sept. 6 (11 am to 5 pm).
- We are going to focus on promoting the Fall Tree Giveaway and offering kid-related activities, such as tree-related art opportunities.
- Matt will create a Tree Giveaway flyer to distribute during the festival.

### **Cove Community Center – Outdoor Intergenerational Learning Spaces**

- There are currently 168 plants at the Cove Center property, making it a good test case for creating a mini-arboretum.
- Linda will schedule a meeting with Laura Jaissle from Cove Center and Bryan Evans to discuss signage.
- The Lakewood Garden Club intends to make a contribution toward a memorial gift for entranceway of this mini-arboretum.

### **Lakewood Park Arboretum**

- Linda has identified the tree species at Lakewood Park and will arrange to get this information to the Forestry Department for review.

### **Cuyahoga Tree Summit**

- This year's Cuyahoga Tree Summit Takes place on Friday, September 26 from 9 to 3 pm in Rocky River.
- Linda, Rita & Matt are planning to attend and represent our Tree Board.

### **HLF Grant**

- Our Tree Board intends to apply to renew our Neighborhood Opportunity Grant with Healthy Lakewood Foundation in the amount of \$7,500. This grant money enabled us to double our tree total from 200 to 400 during 2024.
- This year's grant application period will run from September 4 to 26.

### **Tree-Related Story Walks**

- Lakewood Public Library, in coordination with the City of Lakewood, will be offering tree-related books this fall in their existing story walks located at Madison Park and Kauffman Park.
- The selected books are "Acorn is a Little Wild" and "Tap the Magic Tree."

### **Welcome to Lakewood**

- Our Tree Board intends to have a presence at the "Welcome to Lakewood" event this fall, provided this event is offered.
- TBD on a date for this event. Last year it took place on November 12.

### **Forestry Department Update**

- The City of Lakewood's Forestry Department is starting to work on a plan for its fall tree planting and is in the process of sending out letters to residents about trees that need to be removed.
- Forestry Department staffing is currently adequate, though it never hurts to have more.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50

Respectfully submitted  
Matt Bixenstine, Secretary