

## Tree Advisory and Education Board Minutes 9/13/2023

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

The meeting began at 6:05 pm via Zoom.

The minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted, following a motion by Rita, seconded by Matt.

There was an update on the tree contest with 51 nominations, 10 for Right Tree, Right Spot, 9 Best Conifer, 24 Most Magnificent and 8 Oddest Tree. Voting will continue through the end of September.

There was a discussion of the proposed pilot of a private property tree giveaway program, to increase residents awareness and support of private property tree planting needed to achieve the goal for increased tree canopy. The turnkey Arbor Day program was discussed and a meeting with the mayor will be set up to gain support for the pilot. A discussion of the Gift a Tree program usage in conjunction with the pilot also took place. If supported, a spring launch will be planned. In concert with this discussion, a recommendation for the city Forestry Department to join Alliance for Community Trees was discussed and will also be included in the discussion with the mayor.

Some Community Feedback was discussed tied to climate change and the need for Lakewood to do more relative to the tree canopy restoration, including encouraging churches, schools and businesses to plant trees, promotion of the Gift a Tree program and resident identification of available tree planting spots. Tied into the private property discussion, the board discussed building a coalition with Arbor Day Foundation, Land Trust, Tree Fund USA in January through March. Cuyahoga County's Trees for Ohio, an Ohio chapter of ISA was also discussed.

The Department update included a review of the site development underway for fall tree planting of 200 trees, stump grinding progress and hazardous tree removal. Tree watering of spring planted trees took place 7 times through out the summer using gator bags, and twice for fall 2022 planted trees. Gators will be removed during leaf removal. The team includes a new hire from Hocking Hills College, not currently an arborist but will work towards it.

The Lakewood Park Playground trees were discussed. 2 hazardous trees were removed, with a third to be taken down. Others will be given another year before potential removal. There was a discussion of policies for marking trees to be removed.

Rita and Mary contributed to a discussion of smaller grant opportunities, and will develop a calendar of opportunities to be discussed and pursued.

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Grandstaff, Chair/Secretary