

## **Tree Advisory and Education Board Minutes 11/12/2025**

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Rita Stevens, Matt Bixenstine, Mary Kennedy, Allison Welch, Patrick Costello, Alex Martin, Brian Dawson, Bryan Evans

The Zoom meeting began at 6:04 p.m.

After a motion by Rita and second by Allison, the October meeting minutes were approved.

### **Fall Tree Giveaway – Pickup Event**

- Our latest Tree Pickup Event was a success. Of our 200 total trees, we had 32 tree recipients who did not show up; however, 23 of these trees were claimed by other residents at the end of the event. Consequently, we had only nine unclaimed trees.
- The remaining nine trees are primarily American Basswoods and Black Cherries. The City will store these trees for us for the time being. We could consider trying to find homes for these trees through a social promotion via the City's social channels or through exploring ways to make them available at Light Up Lakewood taking place December 6.
- Provided we pursue a social promotion, Alex believes it's possible the City could drop off trees with recipients. Linda will touch base with Sam next week once he returns.
- Our informal system of letting folks come back at the end of the Tree Pickup Event to obtain unclaimed trees seemed to work well.
- We received outstanding support from the City's Forestry Department and from volunteers who assisted TAEB from the Lakewood Garden Club and NeoGraf Solutions.
- Rita and Glen's tree planting demonstration was well-received, and we'd like to continue to offer this educational opportunity next year if possible.
- We could consider leaning even heavier into offering understory trees next spring.

### **Healthy Lakewood Foundation Grant**

- We are awaiting the results of our grant application with Healthy Lakewood Foundation in the amount of \$7,500. We anticipate learning the results in late November.

### **Tree Board Networking Zoom Session**

- This is taking place at 7 pm on Thursday, November 20 and will involve tree boards from throughout Cuyahoga County.
- Following the most recent Cuyahoga Tree Summit, the Euclid Shade Tree Commission and the Shaker Heights Tree Advisory Board initiated this effort.
- All Lakewood TAEB members are welcome to participate. Each board is asked to introduce themselves and share a networking idea.
- Our networking idea: A Facebook group to encourage a regular flow of information between tree boards county-wide.

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

- We have provided Cove Community Center with the current tree/plant inventory (does not yet include River Birch). Linda will compile plant information, pruning guidance and other useful information over the course of the winter.

- Sam is going to work on informational signs, and TAEB will need to work on helping to develop educational programming.
- Ultimately, a key goal for this project involves developing a self-guided walking tour.
- This space would likely qualify to be certified as an arboretum according to the guidelines, so we look forward to pursuing this status.

### **TAEB Opening**

- Bryan has sat down with five applicants, each of whom is really qualified. He will collaborate with his Council colleagues to make a selection.
- Linda will hold a transition meeting with Rita in the near future.

### **TAEB Committee Report**

- Linda spoke with Maureen Bach about doing our presentation during late January or early February. Bryan is on board with this time window.
- We'd like to focus on the following projects: Our Tree Giveaway Program (while providing an updated map of tree distribution), our outreach initiatives, the Cove Community Center's Outdoor Intergenerational Learning Spaces, Story Walks and the Cuyahoga Tree Summit.

### **City Council Liaison Updates**

- With regards to the Bunts Road construction project, Bryan is advocating for offering impacted residents the opportunity to have a tree planted on their private yard, and then later having a treelawn tree planted once the project is complete.
- Bryan would like TAEB to interact with a newly-created board – the Complete and Active Streets Education and Advisory Board – because he foresees significant synergies between their work and ours.
- Bryan is graciously offering to host our December meeting at his house.

### **Forestry Department Update**

- Fall trees have been delivered and are staged at Madison Park (207 trees in total).
- Tree removals are being done in-house, and several hazardous removals are being done by contractors.
- Trees removed from the Kids Cove playground at Lakewood Park will have their stumps grinded so that new trees can hopefully be planted next year.
- The City uses industry best practices to replace sidewalks while attempting to save mature trees (and remain fiscally responsible).

Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted  
Matt Bixenstine, Secretary