

Tree Advisory and Education Board
Minutes December 13, 2023

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Sam Bonvissuto, Mary Kennedy, Bob Gorentz, David Sangree, Matt Krems, Sarah Kepple

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 6:03 pm.

Following a motion by Mary, seconded by David, the minutes of the November 8, 2023 were unanimously approved.

There was a review of the Arbor Foundation / City of Lakewood discussion and followup actions documented by Rita Stevens. We asked for a budget of \$12,000 to distribute 200 3-5 gallon trees (100 in the spring, 100 in the fall) and the use of the balance in the Gift a Tree fund which is approx. \$5,000. There was a discussion of possible grant resources from the Ohio Education Fund, Trees for CLE and Clever d Tree Coalition. Subsequent to the meeting, Linda and Rita compared notes on the discussion of the budget with the mayor and her team and the mayor felt that it was not reasonable to expect grant funds for 2024 and that the city would fund it with a combination of the Gift a Tree funds and other general funds. The city planning officer Michelle Nocht has been assigned to work with the board on the implementation in 2024. The board must select tree species to be included, which Arbor Day Foundation recommends no more than 4 for a 200 tree pilot. The board discusses various trees and want to offer a combination of large canopy trees (oaks, tulip poplars) and smaller or understory trees (serviceberries, witch hazels.) The species decision should be determined at the January meeting. Arbor Day will handle the ordering for TAEB. Working with the city, Arbor Day will link their online application to the city's website. The board must determine if the pilot will be city wide or confined to a specific footprint. The timeline for the pilot will be April and October. Arbor Day provides a marketing toolkit and the city will enter into a scope of work agreement.

The Fall planting has been completed with 208 large canopy trees planted and 25 smaller trees planted. 2 trees will be relocated at the residents' request and 15-20 residents refused the planting of trees on tree lawns. Stump removal has largely been completed. Staffing is currently 4 and the board will support a request to increase the staffing to 6. The board will look to obtain statistics to support staffing increase.

The meeting was concluded at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Grandstaff, Chair / Secretary
January 10, 2024