Tree Advisory and Education Board

Minutes 9/9/2026

Attendees: Rita Stevens, Allison Welch, Marco Oriella, Sam Bonvissuto, Alex Martin, Patick Costello, Katie Kelleher, Tom Bullock, John Mills (CCBH)

The Zoom meeting began at 6:03pm

TAEB Announcements and Updates

- Booth this Saturday at Lakewood Community Festival
- Cuyahoga County Tree Summit registration open for 9/25

August Minutes Approved

City Forest Update

- Getting ready for fall planting
- Doing elevating and other work orders
- Proactively preparing trees on streets that are getting lead line replacements
    - Are there more measures to take to protect these trees? Question asked by Tom.

Lakewood Community Festival

- Event 11am-5pm
- Set up at 10am
- Sharing tent with friends of Madison Park
- Mary provided rundown of educational activities covered to Rita ahead of meeting.
- Print 200 fliers for fall giveaway. Katie to coordinate with Mary on this.
- Goal: promote tree giveaway, soft soliciting for volunteers and be a resource for questions coming from the community.

Fall Tree Giveaway

- Event 10/3, 10am-12pm
- Portal live in 9/15
- All members are available on day of giveaway. Tom Bullock will also be there to help.
- Rita and Katie to connect offline to get
- Tom wants to gather some information on the community that are picking up trees. Tom recommends a survey – we informed him on the 2025 survey that Marco and Rita are spearheading.

    - This event is a great strategic opportunity to survey the community.
    - Rita will think on this, and see if we can roll something out at Community Festival.
- Tree planting demo. Arbor Day will provide tree for planting demo.
    - Location of tree planting will influence which tree to select.
- Healthy Lakewood Funding – Grant that has partially paid for tree giveaway ($7,500/year). Rita sent application for 2027 funding and passed along to city.
    - Subsequent grant cycles, we should ask for more money to pay for things like training, etc.

Website Content

- City did an update to website earlier this year. Marco took the lead on updating information on TAEB.
- Proposed is a description of our actions
    - Tree giveaway
    - Cover arboretum
    - City Tree Ordinance Evaluation
    - Community Outreach
- Bringing back an FAQ section
    - Info on best practices for tree planting
    - How to get involved
    - What is the city doing to improve canopy
    - Work with city forestry to update some of this information.
- Streets and Forestry Webpage
    - Need to update information on tree data. Going forward, we need it consistently presented.
    - Information on Lakewood Tree Action Plan
    - Tree planting section: expanded to include info on tree planting if your home has a narrow tree lawn, tree giveaway program information, general benefits of trees, etc.

Model Tree Ordinance

- Another opportunity at the Tree Summit to hear more about how municipalities are doing their tree ordinances, 9/25.
    - Rita, Marco and Tom Bullock will be in attendance

Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm

Submitted by Katie Kelleher