

Urban Forestry Advisory Board

Minutes of May 8, 2025

Members Present: Mr. Gerald Checco, Chair; Ms. Angie Strunc; Ms. Maria Dienger; Mr. Bob Vickrey; Mr. Scott Beuerlein; Ms. Berteena Rollins; Mr. Mark Bambach

Members Absent: Ms. Crystal Russell

Staff Present: Mr. Garrett Dienno; Ms. Tiffany Hendrickson; Mr. Jon Harmon.

Meeting: Mr. Checco called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A Quorum was in attendance.

Meeting Agenda: May meeting agenda approved.

Meeting Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, 2025, all members were in favor.

Monthly Activity Report: The monthly activity reports for January, February and March were submitted to members. Mr. Dienno highlighted multiple topics of each monthly report, such as preventative maintenance, stump grinding updates, assessment passed (will reflect on September's tax bill), arbor day (32 trees planted at Roberts Academy in East Price Hill), update of the Arborist 1 and 2 job postings and Spring planting contract is due June 30th, 2025.

Report of DNR Urban Forestry Supervisor:

Mr. Dienno presented to the members the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry Tree Commission Academy. This course will be covered by Urban Forestry for any members interested in participating for this upcoming October. Mr. Harmon gave members an update on the 311 customer service request processes within urban forestry. These updates included case resolution percentages, 311 and Cagis are working with UF on how the public views UF questionnaires. Changing workflow and feedback to help direct the public to the correct departments. Urban Forestry got a shoutout at the CSR March meeting as having the smallest percentage of cases open after their planned end date.

Presentation:

Gerald notified that his presentation with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will take place on June 11th, 2025 at 9:30am and requested that Mr. Tree be in attendance.

Maria Dienger of city planning gave a presentation on how city planning intersects with urban forestry. The presentation was very insightful on how the city is creating dialogue and engagement within city neighborhoods. Helping neighbors feel seen and united about development projects happening. Working with UF on creating/guiding landscapes for parking lots, walkable spaces for business districts, storm water management and development plans for canopy coverage along city streets.

Member Request: Gerald would like to view the city heat maps. Members are interested in a presentation on Biochar from Crystal Courtney.

Meeting Adjournment: Mr. Gerald Checco adjourned at 11:09 am

Meeting: The next regular meeting of the UFAB will be held June 12th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the ***Bettman Natural Resource Center, 4 Beech Lane.***

Approved:



Gerald R. Checco, Chair