

Urban Forestry Advisory Board

Minutes of April 11, 2024

Members Present:

Mr. Gerald Checco, Chair, Mr. Scott Beuerlein, Vice Chair; Mr. Mark Bambach; Ms. Maria Dienger; Ms. Berteena Rollins; Ms. Crystal Russell; Ms. Angie Strunc

Members Absent:

Mr. Greg Long

Staff Present

Mr. Robin Hunt; Mr. Jon Harmon; Ms. Sheila Stump

Meeting

A regular meeting of the Urban Forestry Advisory Board (UFAB) was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Bettman Natural Resource Center, 4 Beech Lane. Mr. Checco, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Quorum was in attendance. Mr. Checco, Chair, stated that he and Mr. Beuerlein, Vice Chair, would like to speak for a few minutes later in the meeting, to discuss community involvement.

Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Meeting Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Baumbach made a Motion, seconded by Ms. Rollins, to approve the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes. All members were in favor; minutes of March 14, 2024, were approved.

3721 Aylesboro Avenue Appeal

Background: In an email dated March 20, 2024, the homeowner at 3721 Aylesboro Avenue, Ms. Amanda Byrne, requested the removal of a callery pear tree planted in the right-of-way in front of her home. Her concern is that the tree is an invasive species that drops berries that stain the sidewalk and her vehicle. Her request is that the tree be removed at no cost to her.

Decision: After reviewing all reports and emails between Ms. Byrne and Urban Forestry staff, and discussing all available options, the Board voted *four to three* to waive the value of the pear tree and allow the homeowner to obtain a Public Tree Work Permit (PTWP) from Urban Forestry to remove the tree and grind the stump *at her expense*. She would also be responsible for the cleanup of all debris.

The Board also *recommended* that Ms. Byrne plant a comparable replacement tree at her expense. She also has the option of applying for a free tree from the Park Board's ReLeaf program, which she would be responsible for the pickup and planting of the tree, on her property. ReLeaf information will be mailed to Ms. Byrne.

Notification: Ms. Byrne will be notified by U.S. mail of the UFAB's decision, informing her that if she wishes to appeal the decision, she may do so in writing to the Board of Park Commissioners.

Report of DNR Urban Forestry Supervisor

Mr. Hunt reported on:

Assessment Update: We received one objection; CSX Railroad. An Equalization Board will be seated. Mr. Hunt answered questions from the Board members on the objection process.

Arbor Day: Proclamations for Mrs. Caryl Fullman and Mr. Reno Runck, honoring their many years of service to the UFAB as Chair and Vice-Chair, will be read at the ceremony. All UFAB members were invited. Mr. Checco thought that it would be nice to have an Urban Forestry Advisory Board member read the proclamations, since Mrs. Fullman and Mr. Runck have given so much of their time to the UFAB.

Tree City USA Awards: Mrs. Fullman, Ms. Courtney, Mr. Checco, and Mr. Hunt will all be attending the awards on Friday, April 19, 2024, in Tipp City, Ohio.

Contracts Updates:

City-wide Planting: Oberson's caught up on backlogged work orders (spring and fall 2023 plus old re-dos from Spectra Scapes). Spring 2024 work orders assigned.

- a. *Preventive Maintenance:* Area F (Madisonville, Mt. Lookout, Mt. Washington, and Oakley) recommended to award, but three of the four bids had some issues.
 - i. Next PM Cycle – Area C (East Price Hill, Saylor Park, and West Price Hill)
 - ii. PM Reorganization – UF staff to discuss and revise (first PM change since UF inception).
- b. *Stump Grinding:* Recommendation to award contract to Arbor Care but they declined.
- c. *Emergency Maintenance:* Completing revisions to the specifications to send to Purchasing for Rebid.

Training: Staff (Crystal Courtney, Garrett Dienno, and Doug Fritsch) to attend ISA Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualification (TPAQ) training plus certification on April 29th & 30th.

Equipment Order Update: Recommendation to award for new chipper truck and landscape dump truck. Working with Fleet Services on completing order to go to Purchasing for two Urban Forestry pickup trucks.

Monthly Activity Report

After briefly discussing the need for updating items and removing outdated items in the March 2024 report, the activity report was filed as submitted.

Chair and Vice Chair Discussion Mr. Checco, chair and Mr. Beuerlein, vice-chair, discussed the idea of getting UFAB members more involved with neighborhoods/community councils. Mr. Hunt stated that UF staff have worked with a few neighborhoods recently on large tree planting projects. Members feel that more communities would become involved in neighborhood projects if the information was given to them well in advance of the project date. Getting project information to citizens can be challenging due to meeting timelines between community council meetings and neighborhood board meetings. Members discussed the idea of a pre-packaged presentation that UFAB members and DNR staff can use at community council meetings. Mr. Hunt will work on setting up dates for UF staff to meet with community councils to give a presentation on Urban Forestry, hopefully before the June UFAB meeting.

Meeting Adjournment Mr. Checco made a Motion, seconded by Ms. Russell, to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Meeting The next regular meeting of the UFAB will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the ***Bettman Natural Resource Center, 4 Beech Lane.***

Approved



Gerald R. Checco, Chair