

Urban Forestry Advisory Board

Minutes of July 9, 2026

Members Present: Mr. Gerald Checco, Chair; Ms. Berteena Rollins; Mr. Bob Vickrey; Ms. Maria Dienger; Mr. Scott Bererlein

Members Absent: Mr. Mark Bambach; Ms. Angie Strunc

Staff Present: Mr. Jon Harmon; Ms. Hailey Buhrlage; Mr. Garrett Dienno; Special Guest Wendi Van Buren

Meeting: Mr. Checco called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A Quorum was in attendance.

Meeting Agenda: Mr. Scott Bererlein motioned to approve the July agenda.

Meeting Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of May 14th, 2026, all members were in favor.

Monthly Activity Report: Garrett Dienno highlighted the May monthly report. Preventative Maintenance schedule in West Price Hill is almost complete, and crews will begin work in OTR. Our in-house team is delaying the stump backlog due to a busy month working on an increase in storm calls. Garrett Dienno proposed a change that monthly activity reports be converted to quarterly reports from our foresters. Mr. Scott Berelein motioned to approve the report change, Mr. Bob Vickrey seconded, and the vote was successful. The Emergent Maintenance contract is set to expire in summer of 2027, UF will be working to discuss what bid proposals should include for required capacity of work.

ODNR: Ms. Wendi Van Buren from Ohio Department of Natural Resources joined our July 9th, 2026, Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting. Ms. Van Buren has an extensive knowledge of urban forestry and has been working with ODNR for the last 23 years. Mr. Garrett Dienno invited Ms. Van Buren and has been actively involved in her tree care academy course. Ms. Van Buren discussed the 7 counties she oversees currently this includes: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren County.

Community Engagement: Mr. Scott Bererlein offered to host a learning opportunity at the Zoo for Ms. Wendi Van Buren's educational courses.

Meeting Adjournment: Mr. Gerald Checco adjourned at 11:14 am

Meeting: The next regular meeting of the UFAB will be held September 10th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the ***Bettman Natural Resource Center, 4 Beech Lane.***

Approved:



Gerald R. Checco, Chair