

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Tree Board

Held April 15, 2025

Call to Order

Meeting called to order 5:22 PM.

Sylvia Harlow	Chair	Present
Patricia Bond	Member	Present
Sharon Duff	Member	Present
Jeanie Gay	Member	Present
Erica Grooms	Member	Present

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director Brent Shane; City Planner Nick Sorice; Clerk of Council Karen Powell

Approval of Minutes

Tree Board Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2025

Mrs. Harlow asked if there were any changes or corrections to the February 18, 2025, Tree Board meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Business

2025 Arbor Day Proclamation - Tree City USA

City Planner Nick Sorice said Mayor Murphy signed the Arbor Day Proclamation, a key element in the Tree City USA status. He reported that there will be an Arbor Day event in Wax Park on April 25, 2025, the last Friday in April. He said regarding the Community Parks and Recreation Vision Plan, a lot of shading was requested by the residents, especially for bystanders at kids' events at sports fields. He said that is great for the Tree City status.

2025 Tree City USA Awards Program - April 24

Mr. Sorice reported the 2025 Tree City USA Awards Program will be held in Wyoming, Ohio. He said he and Mr. Shane will be attending the event. He said eight new Tree City USA signs were made by Corey Jones from the Streets Division. He noted that all the City signs are being changed, and those eight Tree City USA signs will be added in heavily populated areas. He said he and Mr. Shane would like to have a picture taken with the Tree Board and the proclamation to include the members in the post. He said he wants to make sure the Tree Board members are mentioned and shown as part of the process. He said the photo will be taken right after the meeting.

Other Business

Tree Article - Protecting Native Trees

Mr. Sorice reported that a couple of years ago, Ohio placed a ban on Bradford Pear trees. He said the trees are very pretty but smell bad and are invasive. He said the trees are seen along highways, roadways, forest clearings and such. He said the trees are difficult to remove and birds will replant the seeds. He requested that if any of the board members see that type of tree in the City, please let him know. He said the tree is an invasive species and does need to be removed. He noted that once the Bradford Pear tree was a favorite of the horticultural industry, and then Ohio banned those trees in 2023 because of their invasive nature. He said they also tend to crowd out native plants and trees.

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Mrs. Harlow asked what is the difference between the Bradford Pear and Cleveland Pear tree?

Mr. Shane said the main difference is the base. He said the Bradford Pear is thinner, and the Cleveland Pear is smaller in height according to Google.

Mr. Sorice said the Bradford, or Callery, Pear trees are the only trees that are banned.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM.



ATTEST: City Planner, Nick Sorice



ATTEST: Clerk of Council, Karen Powell