

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Tree Board

Held February 17, 2026

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:24 PM.

Mrs. Erica Grooms, who was reappointed by Council for a term ending December 31, 2027, was sworn in prior to the start of the Board of Parks and Recreation and Tree Board meetings.

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Tree Board Meeting Minutes - December 16, 2025

Chair Sylvia Harlow asked if there were any changes or corrections to the December 16, 2025, Tree Board meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Clerk of Council Karen Powell asked for a nomination for the board chairperson for 2026.

Mrs. Duff nominated Mrs. Harlow; Mrs. Bond seconded the motion.

RESULT: Passed *(Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0)*
MOVER: Sharon Duff
AYES: Sylvia Harlow, Sharon Duff, Jeanie Gay, Erica Grooms, Patty Bond
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Ms. Powell asked for a nomination for the board vice chairperson for 2026.

Mrs. Duff nominated Mrs. Bond; Mrs. Gay seconded the motion.

RESULT: Passed *(Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0)*
MOVER: Sharon Duff
AYES: Sylvia Harlow, Sharon Duff, Jeanie Gay, Erica Grooms, Patty Bond
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Business

2025 Tree City USA - Update

Mr. Sorice provided an update regarding Tree City USA to the board members. He noted he received an email stating the application was approved by the Arbor Day Foundation. He explained the process for approval and mentioned this is the 15-year application. He thanked Parks and Recreation, Community Development, City Council, the Streets Division, and the Tree Board. He also thanked Ms. Powell and Mayor Murphy for the yearly Arbor Day proclamation, and Kelly Stricker for organizing the Arbor Day event each year. Mr. Sorice also noted that ongoing City tree maintenance plays a big part in approval of the Tree City status. He

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did report that this year he would like to apply for grants to get some additional trees planted, perhaps in parks and public areas. He said the Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Grant comes up each year in the spring, and that money can be used for trees in the City.

Mrs. Duff asked for the date of Arbor Day?

Mr. Sorice replied that Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. He said that date comes from federal legislation.

Tree Article - ODNR Bare-Root Seedling Planting Guide for the spring

Mr. Sorice reviewed the article from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He said that is the No. 1 website to visit if there is a question about trees. He noted that bare-root seedling planting is the most affordable way to plant trees, and he reported that the article has information on location and when to plant. He said bare-root seedlings should be planted in spring, whereas more mature plants should be planted in the fall. He discussed pests, diseases, and animals which all propose threats to new plantings.

Other Business

Mr. Sorice shared information about an article in the Dayton Daily News regarding TNT Fireworks. He said the article quoted information from one of the Tree Board meetings. He said he could email the article to the board members if they would like.

Mr. Sorice reported that the next Tree Board meeting wil be held on April 21, 2026, at 5:15 PM.

Adjournment



Meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.
ATTEST: City Planner, Nick Sorice