

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2018
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Members Present:

Audrey Kessler
John Belfiore
Andrew Roland
Peter Kierstead

Staff Present:

Brad McKay, Facilities Mgr. /Arborist
Rebecca Swauger, Account Clerk

Absent:

Andrew Scholl

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:05 by Audrey Kessler

II. Roll Call

Audrey Kessler, John Belfiore, Andrew Roland, Peter Kierstead were present. Staff members Brad McKay and Rebecca Swauger were also present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Andrew Roland made a motion to approve the previous minutes, second motion made by Peter Kierstead.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay talked about the direction for 2019. Planting in downtown will consist of larger trees that can't be shaken easily. He prefers to plant in the fall but is going to try for spring. Currently there are tree removals being done through December, those trees are marked with a white "X" and are in the area of Grant, Cuyahoga and Stinaff Streets.

V. Old Business

Mr. McKay said that there were 615 trees planted on Ivan Drive.

Mr. Kierstead asked what the reason for tree removals is.

Mr. McKay said that it is overall bad health, some caused from Engineering projects such as sidewalk repairs.

VII. New Business

Mr. McKay said that spring planting will depend on the fall removals, which depends on the weather.

Mr. McKay spoke briefly on The Tree City Awards, which are typically held in May, if anyone is interested in going. He is planning on applying for a "Growth Award" this year and also exploring the possibility of hosting the awards in the future.

The next reforestation, the area behind Enterprise Drive is to be planted, this is much larger than

the Ivan Drive project and will take 2-3 years to complete. There should be a plan in place for this planting by spring of 2019. The best place to go after this planting would be Haymaker, the existing pines have been there since the late 90's, it would be nice to have this area more landscaped and stylish.

2019 goals: to improve the city streetscape on Crain Avenue and the area surrounding Bob Evans, also ideas for medians in the area of West Main, Longmere and Haymaker.

Previously we have handed out trees at the Who's Your Mama Festival, perhaps we should change that, possibly to the Farmer's Market? Also, may want to consider educational pamphlets as well.

The members agreed to have the next meeting on February 4, 2019 at 5:00pm.

VII. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Ms. Kessler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm, the Motion was seconded by Mr. Kierstead.