

TREE COMMISSION

June 23, 2025

The June 23, 2025 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers by Chari Alesch, Chairperson. Tree Commission members present were Chari Alesch and John Walker. Judi Lambrite, Jason Lemire, and Nate Treadway were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the April 28, 2025 Tree Commission meeting, were approved as received.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that in the back of Stepping Stones Park and along the Sandusky River there is tree debris that needs to be cleaned out.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported on an invoice received from Bill Sowers Tree Service following a storm that took place on Saturday, May 17, 2025 that caused a street tree to fall on the corner of a roof of a home located at 128 West Bigelow Street. Bill Sowers Tree Service removed the limbs of the tree from the roofs shortly after the storm and the rest of the tree was removed the following week.

Mr. Niederkohr indicated that there was a tree in Stepping Stones Park that had split. The tree was taken down by Bill Sowers Tree Service and the Parks Department cleaned up the debris.

Mr. Niederkohr shared an estimate of \$6,300.00 received from Bill Sowers Tree Service for the following street tree removals:

- \$3,900.00 for a large maple located at 334 South Sandusky Avenue that has been dropping dead limbs and the primary weight of the tree is hanging over the house;
- \$2,400.00 for a tree located at 333 South Hazel Street that the trunk has a hollow center.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that the resident located at 327 South Hazel Street contacted him and expressed concerns about the street tree located in front of their home as it is a messy tree that drops sticks. Mr. Niederkohr consulted with Bill Sowers Tree Service and it was determined that the tree is healthy. Mr. Sowers and Mr. Niederkohr agreed that the tree should not be removed. Mr. Niederkohr will inform the resident of this decision.

Mr. Niederkohr further reported that there is still a long list of tree work to be addressed.

Mayor McColly informed Mr. Niederkohr of a request presented at the June 16, 2025 City Council meeting to replace the tree located in front of the American Legion, 122 North Sandusky Avenue, with a smaller tree. Mr. Niederkohr stated that the tree has been trimmed and it's not currently touching the flag pole or the awning. Mr. Niederkohr and Mr. Walker will look at the tree and contact representatives from the American Legion regarding this matter.

It was noted that Mrs. Stephanie Miller, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Western Ohio Urban Forestry Coordinator, has sent out grant funding information and Mr. Jason Lemire wants to review this information. The deadline for submission of the grant application is August 27, 2025.

Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Chari Alesch, Chairperson