

**Tree Commission**  
**Thursday – January 22, 2015**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Public Works Department – Conference Room**  
**Minutes**

Attendees: Jerry Unroe, Co-chair; Linda O’Neil, Co-chair; Tom Munn, Public Works Superintendent; Alex Keleman, City Council Liaison, William Robinson; Ron Bevilacqua (arrived at 7:10 pm)

Guest(s): Lou Ann Hanink, emeritus member of Tree Commission; Greg Modic, Don Bohning & Associates, Design Engineer; Chris Brown, Prestige Homes; James Arch, Vizmeg Landscape; Greg Hannan, City Planner (arrived at 7:40 pm)

Absent: Dan Szoch; Chris Rigby, Garden Club Liaison

Minutes Approval: Minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were read and approved.

Public Comment: None

Reports/Presentations

1. City Council Liaison

- There will be a Main Street public meeting sometime in February. Will forward the date to you once I get it.
- There are 3 different citizens groups that are active now. There was a comprehensive planning meeting and a phase II meeting of the commission that council appointed. Tonight they are having a visioning session that was open to the public about what they’d like to see happen in the city. Also there’s a phase 2 sub-committee of that plan that’s talking about phase 2 of 1<sup>st</sup> & Main which is the area around the bus garage and salt dome. Also there is a charter review commission which will start this year and will report by July regarding anything that needs changed on the charter.
- Hudson Expo, Saturday, February 28 from 10 am-3 pm at East Woods School. Will need some volunteers from Tree Commission.
- City departments are in the process of making presentations regarding the City’s 5 and 10 year plans.
- Still interested in memorial trees for John Jeffers (one from the city and one from council). These will be planted in the spring (April or May). A red oak will be planted at Ellsworth Golf Course. Maybe a second one could be planted near the gazebo.
- High speed internet survey went out recently. This is in the preliminary stage. Trash survey was completed and is being compiled. EAC will be bringing recommendation to council first half of the year.

2. Hudson Garden Club Liaison

- Garden Club Liaison not in attendance

3. Urban Forestry - City Arborist

- No report

4. Commission Discussion

- Old Business
  - Reserve at River Oaks – Mr. Brown said Phase I has already been started but here to discuss the portion of the property that is adjacent to the west and which was recently re-zoned from industrial to residential. Our intent is to go with smaller lot sizes (1/3-1/2 acre lot sizes). We had Mr. Modic’s firm come in and design a layout which utilizes the best use for the property, submitted the plan and here to discuss any questions or concerns.

Ms. O’Neil stated that the area which is being clearcut has many trees with over a 12-inch diameter and wondered if there was a way any of these larger trees could be saved. The other issue is that you will be moving and compacting soil and killing the micro-organisms which is counterproductive for any tree growth down the road. Will you be doing soil mending and aerating of the top 2 feet to create an

environment where green space will survive? Mr. Unroe would like to walk to property to see if some of these larger trees can be marked to save. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Bevilaqua both asked if some of the trees could be saved in the back of the lots since the back of the lots are not impacted as much by heavy machinery. Mr. Robinson asked about the impact on amphibious creatures. He's hoping very little because of the wetlands at the back of the property.

Mr. Brown stated that they went with open space conservation which requires 50% open space but we got up to 70%. Out of the 440 acres in the development, we are looking to cut 70 acres but we are keeping 311 acres in the preserved areas and open space, so about 15% of the area is being cleared. We typically have 25-30 ft. around a house for people to work and then we try to leave things alone in the back which in this case we have about 30 ft. left in the back. Whenever you build a house, the regulations for stormwater are pretty stringent. All of the run-off from that yard has to be contained and directed into a retention basin, so we are forced to put a storm sewer drainage system back behind the houses.

We did every space we can minus a couple feet in some tight corners to keep the 50 ft. wetland buffer off the lots. We are doing just what someone needs to live in, to use their yard, and to provide stormwater management behind it which is the reasoning for the clearing. If you are looking at just the lot, yes we are cutting down quite a bit, but we are saving everything around it and the reason for cutting down what we are on the lots is because we are giving what we are required for the setbacks and then providing the stormwater management to meet city codes and Ohio EPA regulations. Army Corps of Engineers have okayed our plans since we are staying out of the wetlands and 50 ft. buffers.

In regards to soil compaction we are calling for 8 inches of topsoil to be re-spread and provide some organics in the top layer.

Mr. Hannan said that the current application is scheduled for the Planning Commission on Monday, January 26, which will be the preliminary plan for the western parcel and the request to clear the trees from the western parcel and the eastern portions for future phases. This is an open space conservation so before they can even consider development, they have to propose 50% perpetual preservation and they've gone up to 70%. Also the retention basins per our ordinance are allowed in the 50 ft. buffer zone. Before this new western phase they had not proposed the basins in the buffer. So they have done a few steps to give a little higher standard than the minimum.

- Jerry made a motion to support what was presented this evening and approve Community Development's recommendations to the Planning Commission. Linda: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: Unanimous
- New Business
- Officer elections – Mr. Bevilaqua moved to nominate Mr. Unroe and Ms. O'Neil as the 2015 Tree Commission co-chairs. Mr. Robinson – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote: Unanimous.
- Motion was made to adjourn meeting. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2015.

Minutes were taken by:



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Signature

Minutes were approved by:

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Signature