

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
FORT THOMAS TREE COMMISSION  
FORT THOMAS MESS HALL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** John Cody  
Leonard Beck  
John Martin, Vice Chair  
Rex McBride

**ABSENT:** Joey Hood, Chair  
Mike Rice  
Barbara Manyet

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kevin Barbian, General Services Director  
Sam Shelton, Administrative Assistant  
Cheri Scherpenberg, G.S. Administrative Assistant

John Martin presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes**

Members reviewed the minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting. A motion was made by John Cody and seconded by Rex McBride to approve the January minutes as written. Motion carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Visitors & Communications**

Brady Jolly was in attendance to address the T. C. members as the trees in Alexander Circle are regulated by the Tree Commission. Mr. Brady requested approval to remove a large tree in front of the property at 1 Alexander Circle as well as a few smaller trees along the driveway. Mr. Jolly noted that he had the trees evaluated for health and removal was recommended.

The condition of the trees was discussed and a motion was made by John Martin and seconded by John Cody to approve removal of the trees located at 1 Alexander Cir. Motion Approved

**B) Taking Root Great Tree Summit follow-up**

The City hosted the Taking Root Great tree Summit on Saturday, February 25 from 8am-12pm at the Mess Hall. This event focused on tree canopy coverage. The goal of this Cincinnati based organization is to have a tree planted per each citizen of the City.

**C) Earth/Arbor Day: April 30**

Tree Commission takes part in the Earth Day/Arbor Day event each year, joining approximately 70 additional organizations that participate. Last year, the Tree Commission set up a table, raffled off a free front yard tree, and handed out 200 saplings. Please consider educational materials, volunteer availability and giveaway opportunities for this event.

**D) Spraying of Lesser Celandine/Invasive Species**

This month the eradication of Lesser Celandine began in our parks. Staff members and the Forest Conservancy worked together to place signage marking where it will be taking place and to inform the public of what is going on.

**E) City Park Tree Plantings**

The Garden Club has been in communication with the City and Chris Manning about a goal they are trying to accomplish of planting 100 trees in 5 years. The club is approaching the end of their timeline and has an estimated 25 trees left to plant. The Garden Club is interested in planting several trees by the shelter and multiple trees by the dog park in Highland Hills Park.

**F) T. C. Goals for 2023**

With new members on the Tree Commission, it was suggested that each member create a bio that lists their experience, strengths and interests to help prioritize areas to focus on for the 2023-24 year.

Goals that were proposed:

- Community Education
- Populate info. for Signage, Kiosks & Website
- Tree Canopy Assessment
- Tree Trail & Highland Hills Park
- Front Yard Tree Planting Program
- Mission Statement

**G) Tree Removal Requests**

- A motion was made by John Cody and seconded by John Martin to remove the tree located at 12 Allison Ct. Motion Approved
- A motion was made by John Cody and seconded by Leonard Beck to remove the tree located at 117 Ohio Ave. Motion Approved

**Adjournment**