

Shade Tree Commission
Minutes
February 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Athens City Council Chambers

Meeting Attendees: David Ingram, David Sincoff, Emilie Wood, Lee Gregg, Nancy Walker, John Kotowski, Peter Kostas, Ron Lucas

1. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right-of-Way Issues, Public Land
 - a. None
2. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues
 - a. None
3. Report by Ron Lucas – submitted by email
 - a. AEP line clearance in the Near North Side and North Side. Five large ash trees were taken down in the RoW.
 - b. There have been and will be more land-use meetings on the land behind Kroger on the south side of the bike path. The trees will be protected. There will be no clear cutting, contrary to the rumors that have been circulating. Commissioners expressed interest in removing non-native invasive species of plants from that area. Some commissioners will try to attend future meetings of the land-use group.
 - c. Tree City USA awards ceremony on May 3 in Belpre. This will be our 29th year for this award.
 - d. America in Bloom – the City will enter again. Ron reviewed the categories. We do well in sustainability and tree canopy. We could do better with flowers. We need to focus on the communities such as the neighborhoods. Ron invited the commissioners to take part in the meetings, several expressed interest and made many suggestions to Ron.
 - e. There were questions about ash tree removal on private property. Ron has met with the Law Director about branches being dropped from private property onto another. The City can do little to force the owner of the tree to take action. He noted that there are some ash trees on City land that are away from areas that people walk in and they will be left unless a reason arises for their removal.
 - f. There may be a spring tree planting by the City. Ron is preparing a plan.
 - g. Trees on Columbus road that have died will be replaced. The commissioners suggest that perennials could also be planted in the area too.
 - h. Ron is working with AEP on a brochure on why we need to do electric line clearance. Commissioners noted that AEP's communication with property owners has been much better recently.
 - i. The City will return to finish the pruning of trees on East State St. near the ODNR offices and the new traffic light for Home St.
4. Other
 - a. Nancy's text for a brochure. Commissioners were asked to review the text and find pictures that could be used in the brochure.

- b. Peter Kostas was asked if the oak trees on Wallace Drive are to be included in the plans for the redevelopment of the East Elementary School site. It was noted that as a separate political subdivision of the State the School Board does not have to follow the City code. However, it was also noted that the university, and the mental health hospital have reported their plans to the Shade Tree Commission and welcomed our comments.
- 5. Minutes of the January 14, 2019
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes from David Sincoff, seconded by Nancy Walker. The minutes were approved without objection
- 6. Next meeting is March 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber