AGENDA
POWELL TREE BOARD
GOLF VILLAGE
TRICIA PRICE DRIVE (NEAR RUTHERFORD RD ENTRANCE)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026
2:00 PM

NOTE: DUE TO OFF- SITE LOCATION, THIS MEETING IS UNABLE TO BE RECORDED OR STREAMED

NOTE: THIS IS A WORKING MEETING FOR THE TREE BOARD MEMBERS TO BE SHOWN THE TREE CANOPY IMPACT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT. IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, THE TREE BOARD WILL MEET NEAR THE CORNER OF TRICIA PRICE DRIVE AND WILDFLOWER DRIVE (NEAR THE RUTHERFORD RD. ENTRANCE TO GOLF VILLAGE).

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the Tree Board meeting held on July 29, 2026.
tree-board_minutes_summary 07.29.2026.pdf

3. TODAY'S BUSINESS

Tree Canopy Impact To Public Service Department
1. Plowing Limitations
2. Pruning

4. FUTURE BUSINESS

Review of Topics for Consideration
1. Annual HOA Presentation
2. Memorial Trees
3. Tree Pruning and Tree Maintenance in Public Areas/Street Trees
4. Invasive Trees
5. Education Efforts on Tree Selection, Pruning, Mulching
6. Funding Options - Grants and Fees

5. ADJOURNMENT

TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 29, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Leif Carlson called the July 29, 2026, Tree Board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members present included Melissa Hindman, Jonathan Davis, Lance Austin, Keith Gooch, Elliott Schaffer, and Chairman Leif Carlson. Staff present included Elaine McCloskey, City Clerk, Charles Dukes, Public Service Director, and Andrew D. White, City Manager.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of the minutes from the Tree Board meeting held on May 26, 2026.

b. Approval of the minutes from the Tree Board meeting held on June 29, 2026.

MOTION: Elliott Schaffer moved to approve the minutes from the Tree Board meeting held on May 26, 2026 and June 29, 2026. Jonathan Davis seconded. Motion passed.

VOTE: Y-6 N-0 AB-0

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Pollinator Garden Eagle Scout Project Proposal - Shaurya Lunkad

Melissa Hindman said that Shaurya approached her about having a pollinator garden as he Eagle Scout project. Shaurya Lunkad provided a handout to the Board with a preliminary sketch of the proposed pollinator garden (Attachment A). He said that he is a junior at Olentangy Liberty High School and is a senior patrol leader of his troop. He is looking to create a create a pollinator garden with native flowers and grasses to promote a larger pollinator population in Ohio. The garden will feature native grass and flower beds, a steppingstone path through the garden and a mulched and it will be mulched with stones around the border.

Pollinator gardens are important because one of the most pressing environmental problems today isn't just the rising temperatures or sea levels, it's also the declining population of pollinators, whether bees, bats or butterflies. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 1/3 of the world's crop production relies on pollinators, including multiple fruits, nuts and berries. By creating a native pollinator garden, this project will help stimulate a growing pollinator population and a beautiful working space in a city park.

Shaurya Lunkad discussed volunteers and cost estimates for the projects. He will be recruiting members from Troop 428 to assist. He is looking for total cost including grass seeds and, concrete

steppingstones, native flowers, mulch, and rabbit cover to be around $690.00. He also estimated cost for materials for supplies, including waters and snacks, trash bags and shovels to be around $890.50. He plans to raise this money through a GoFundMe campaign. The project will have five main phases: planning, finalizing, raising funds, placing and planting.

Elliott Schaffer asked where he intends to get the seeds for plants. Shaurya Lunkad responded that he will be looking at Home Depot and Menards. Elliott Schaffer informed that there are several places that focus exclusively on pollinator gardens that may provide a better selection and quality. He said the prices may not be better. Melissa Hindman said that hey also worked with the Central Ohio Pollinator Pathway Group for the first pollinator garden at Arbor Ridge. She said they can introduce him to them.

Chairman Leif Carlson said he is not opposed to a pollinator garden and asked if there is a thought for a location. Melissa Hindman discussed looking for a location that is not expected in a location where it could be part of a new construction project as proposed in the Parks Master Plan. Her thoughts would be Library Park, Murphy Park or Seldom Seen Park. Lance Austin recommended staying away from Murphy Park and recommended looking at Library Park. Jonathan Davi discussed plans to install pollinator garden at Reserve of Scioto.

Keith Gooch asked if he was planning on a aesthetically pretty site or focusing on the environmentally impactful. Shaurya Lunkad responded that the first thing is environmentally impactful and if there is space for some aesthetics, then they will be used. Keith Gooch said that decision should influence the plant selection and location as a really impactful one can be quite ugly but has a good environmental impact. He said they may not want to go to Library Park.

Chairman Leif Carlson said that the first one they put in did not have anything around it and was just edged out and built near a storm drain. He asked if the stone surrounding that area would cause extra work for the crews to trim around it and not just mow around. Jonathan Davis responded that they would have to trim around it, but it would not be a big issue. Chairman Leif Carlson said that from his personal experience, he had to lug water at least four days a week to the first pollinator garden and asked the plans for watering. He said it was a very labor-intensive project. Shaurya Lunkad responded it will depend on the location and asked about sprinklers at Seldom Seen. Melissa Hindman said that the irrigation system is located near the athletic fields and the garden would not be located near there because of the sports activities. She said it would be closer to the wetland area. Shaurya Lunkad responded he would have to help water it for a couple of months. City Manager Andrew White said as a beneficiary, if the City goes forward with this, they will partner with him on the watering. He thins it would be important that they schedule a walk-through together and then they can think about these logistical things as it is going to become part of the park system and it is going to have to be maintained and part of the City's annualized maintenance efforts.

Elliott Schaffer asked if they could put a sign up or inexpensive marker to provide credit for the project. City Manager Andrew White said that he thinks it is appropriate to have a sign marker.

Keith Gooch said that he is supportive of the idea and would like it to be as successful as possible. He said that when they find their location, he hopes that he modifies the plan for the location and encouraged him to consider maximizing the plants and minimizing the mulch.

Lance Austin discussed that in the past couple of years they have had extra seasonal help over the summer to help with the watering, which will be helpful.

b. 2026 Tree Board Priorities

Chairman Leif Carlson discussed that Elliott Schaffer had emailed the group suggesting that they come up with some agenda items. He said that the City Manager was going to talk to them about what their purpose is and what they need to accomplish this year and most immediate needs. City Manager Andrew White thanked the citizen volunteers for their participation in the Board and stressed the importance of citizen input. The reason this board was established was to provide recertification of the annual Tree City USA designation. Last year the City was provided some guidance to meet their process requirements and that is how Council established this Board. The four requirements are fairly simple to receive the Tree City USA accommodation certificate and include having a tree board, a tree care ordinance, which is provided in the Zoning Code, having a budget of $2.00 per capita, which is done through the streets department and to take action to observe Arbor Day. He discussed what the board would like to see and how committee discussions will go have to be thought through because there is currently not a designated budget, there is limited staff and because of this, they will be limited in what they are able to do. He discussed looking at what other cities are doing around the State. He said that there are many different versions and largely the nature of the boards set up are based on the resources that they have to manage. He provided an example of Hamilton, Ohio, which has over 600 employees and their plans to look at heat islands to mitigate global warming. While this is a great idea, the City of Powell could not do that right now. He said that they need to think about for the future how will this body organize itself beyond the four requirements to provide the City with the designation of Tree City USA. He also said that the Board is a subordinate of City Council, so anything that they do is advisory until acted upon by City Council, even including different modifications to the park systems. He said the previous discussion of the pollinator garden is going to need to have Council's approval at some point. He discussed that a couple of items for discussion is the parks that do not have a tree canopy and discussed Scioto Reserve. Successful Tree Boards in other communities go through an annual process of comprehensive grant planning. ODNR and some federal programs have available dollars that they could work on going after. He also discussed speaking with the Planning Director regarding any development plan that is submitted within the City, the developer, based on total units, is required to have for every four units' so much green space. In lieu of that, they pay a fee that goes to the Recreation Fund, which is a nice source for the Board to go after more funds through Council.

Melissa Hindman reported receiving requests for Memorial Trees. Currently the person would purchase the tree, and staff would help locate a space and species based on the tree. The person would pay for it and if there is going to be a brick or plaque the City would install the tree with the new Delaware Foundation. She explained that they now have the means to have funding go there is ordered to help pay for the tree. She discussed having the Board provide some advisory on keeping it as is or providing a list of approved trees or to have the person go through the foundation that is set up. She noted they get about 2-4 requests a year. Elliott Schaffer recommended putting the information on the website to generate more awareness and interest.

Charles Dukes discussed looking at the tree canopy from a maintenance perspective and the difficulty it provides during snow and ice. He recommended having a meeting on site, so they can bring out a plow and demonstrate the difficulty reaching the curb due to the canopy of the street trees. He mentioned that he has worked with Liberty Township, who recently came out with a flyer on tree trimming requirements and other issues in some of the HOA's/neighborhoods that have private trees in the right of way. He discussed the constraints to prune a tree that impacts signage, which can impact emergency vehicles. He discussed looking at a Street Tree Policy and education to the public.

Lance Austin discussed the problem staff sees is getting enforcement from HOA's as a lot of the agreements in the HOA have that it is the resident's responsibility. Elliott Schaffer discussed public property and that the City would have the right to prune anything from the edge of the sidewalk to the street. Charles Dukes discussed the need for education to residents so that they are aware of the trees being pruned. Elliott Schaffer recommended alerting the residents in advance of pruning activity. He recommended having members of the Tree Board attend the annual HOA meeting to provide this type of information. Councilmember Leif Carlson questioned if staff is able to keep up with the problem of pruning. Jonathan Davis discussed that a subdivision with issues is Golf Village, which in that subdivision is the responsibility of the homeowner. The vast majority of trees in this subdivision are not being pruned, and it puts staff in a situation where they have to reach out to the HOA because of site clearance. He said that they do not have the staff to maintain all of those trees. He said it would be beneficial to contract some of the work. City Manager Andrew White discussed they can come back to Council to do a catch-up provision whereby they would request funds available to vet out a contract competitively to get someone to do that. Following that action, they can start to look at a proactive model in terms of maintenance.

Jonathan Davis also discussed tree care responsibility and that currently staff only offers to residents to have a tree removed when it is sickly or damaged. They currently are not able to grind the stump, and they don't replant a tree. He said that they will be moving toward stump grinding at some point when they get the right equipment. He discussed looking to the Board for guidance on planting trees in the right-of-way after they are removed or to leave them up to the homeowners. He reported that they currently try to replace trees in the parks that are being removed. Chairman Leif Carlson discussed that there were two car accidents in Olentangy Ridge that have struck cotton trees. Lance Austin discussed that it is usually up to the homeowner and HOA if they require replacement for the right of way tree and that each HOA has its own different bylaws.

Keith Gooch discussed that other cities give a amount to owners who remove invasive trees. Chairman Leif Carlson informed the Board that there was a line item in the budget last year for invasive species removal. He said a lot of the funds were used at Bennett Farm. Keith Gooch said it would be interesting to see the success or failures of other communities because the offer for them was around $100.00. He said if that is enough to encourage someone to remove a tree as opposed to removing a tree at a cost of hundreds of dollars, that might be an effective use of money. City Manager Andrew White reported that staff can report back as an action item what other communities are doing. Jonthan Davis said that they have been systematically removing pear trees when there is storm damage and trying to convince homeowners that this is the best route due to being invasive.

Elliott Schaffer discussed promoting and educating tree knowledge on the City's website, including plant selection, pruning, and mulching. He said that the tree list is hard to find. Melissa Hindman said that they could also look into having the Board do a public program on tree care, mulching, etc. Elliott Schaffer also notified the Board that he uses to be a ISA Certified Arborist but is retired now. He will be attending the ISA meeting in Detroit in a couple of weeks and will report back to the Board.

Jonathan Davis said this may topic may not be an agenda item but did question if there was an arborist on staff or consultant that assisted with the design plans for Bennett Farm. He said that there are many of the trees that they are looking to save, once construction starts, they may want to set up some tree protection zones to limit soil compaction and other issues from construction. Public Service Director Charles Dukes said that there was a consultant that assisted with the tree survey. Elliott Schaffer stated that he and Keith Gooch walked the property last week and suggested if there is a budget to get a ISA Certified Arborist opinion on the massive red oak tree and maybe a couple other

trees to provide a second opinion on how best to protect it, what needs to be done or whether it makes sense to just remove it. Elliott Schaffer reported that the large red oak has some decay, but it also can be kept alive for many years. He also said there is a large catalpa tree close to the street that may not be worth saving. Keith Gooch inquired about the detour around the red oak and if that is the plan going forward. City Manager Andrew White said that they don't have the final plans as of yet. Melissa Hindman believes those are secondary walking paths and the main 10-foot multi-use path would go directly along the line of S.R. 750. City Manager Andrew White reiterated they are waiting on the final plan. Elliott Schaffer said that this seems to be more time critical and would be helpful to get the arborist input as the tree is high impact for the community and plans are being made. City Manager Andrew White explained that the plans began before this body was established and Council set a priority to have that path open by the end of the year.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board agreed to meet on August 12, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at a location to be determined by staff in Golf Village to demonstrate the tree canopy issue with a snow plow.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Elliott Schaffer moved to adjourn. Jonathan Davis seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

VOTE: Y - 6 N - 0 AB-0

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Leif Carlson, Chairperson — Date

Elaine McCloskey, Clerk — Date

Tree Board Meeting: July 29, 2026
Attachment A

