

Minutes

Village of Kirkland Tree Advisory Commission

04-08-2025

I. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

II. Roll Call: Present were Mindy Quigley, Jeff Miller, Brian Benes, Jim Stark, Michelle Chambers and Dawn Darling; absent was Matt Felix

III. Old Business

A. Minutes—The minutes of the 03-11-2025 Tree Commission meeting were read and approved.

B. Urban Forest Plan—there was nothing new to report.

C. Tree List—Mindy and Matt had met to discuss the "Recommended Tree List". They propose removing Hackberry from the list (considered a scrub tree) as well as Blackhaw Viburnum (it sends out suckers at the base which leads to a multi-trunk tree).

To plant the appropriate trees in different size parkways, they suggested developing a map of Kirkland that shows "zones"; that way, residents can pick trees according to their "zone". These would be color-coded for narrower parkways and wider parkways.

Mindy and Matt proposed eliminating evergreens from parkway plantings.

Matt and Mindy made the following recommendations for new trees to add to the "Recommended Tree List" (all are available from St. Aubin):

Small Trees: Single stem Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*); single stem lilac tree varieties such as Ivory Silk (*Syringa reticulata*), Snowdance, and Summer Storm

Medium Trees: Ginkgo Biloba varieties such as Magyar, Autumn Gold and Princeton Serenity; also the Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) variety Early Glow;

Large Trees: (for large 10' minimum parkways): Regal Prince Oak (Cross between a White Oak/English Oak). (*Quercus x warei* Long Regal Prince); a Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) variety called Wildfire; hybrid Red Maples like Brandywine (*Acer rubrum*), Burgundy Belle, October Glory, and Sun Valley. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) Royal Red

Mindy and Matt proposed going to St. Aubin and physically examining the trees we select. Mindy met the St. Aubin owner at an event, and he said they measure diameter at the *bottom* of a tree with a digital caliper. She showed him photos of our trees with smaller than expected diameters. We have specified in our orders a DBH (diameter at breast height) of 2.5 inches. One solution is to go out to St. Aubin after we place an order and pick and tag the trees we want, so we get that 2.5" DBH minimum.

Mindy reported that If we were to hire somebody other than St. Aubin (a landscaper) to plant 10-20 trees, those plantings should be done in mid April to the end of May; and/or in the fall from the end of September to mid-October.

Poster-sized "tags" can be printed to place next to planted trees to "tell the story" of the tree, for example why the tree was planted, an/or include a blurb about the homeowner(s). Mindy showed an example of such a tag used by the Morton Arboretum. Maybe the high school art class could design it? (Dawn asked how we would pay for it).

D. Wilson Nursery—Mindy had reached out to them. The Village has an account with Wilson. But Wilson does not plant trees; we would have to hire a landscaper to do the planting.

E. Planting Area—Brian reported that there is nothing further yet on getting the Hiawatha High School Agriculture department to take on as a project sapling plantings. Jeff asked if a part of the land where the community garden is being planted could be used as a sapling nursery. Brian will ask the Village Board.

F. Village website link—We are going to wait until the Village Clerk transition is complete before talking with Leslie (the new Clerk) about involving the IT guys to get this project done.

G. Tree City Status—Brian reported we have been accepted and approved as a Tree City. We will display our plaque in Village Hall. We're waiting to hear back about our National Arbor Day Growth Status (a point system that reflects our ongoing commitment to the urban canopy).

H. 25 Oak Saplings—Planting day is Saturday, April 12 at 9 AM at Behnke Park, along the pathway by the creek. 4-H will participate and we are soliciting more community involvement through Facebook posts. Anyone from Kirkland who shows up to help should be asked if their family wants to "adopt" a tree. Hiawatha's principal is on board with the idea of a "family adoption" program promulgated through the Kindergarten classes; we need to come up with a blurb: "adopt a tree—it's free—and pledge to take care of it by watering it once or twice a week (more often in times of drought). Public Works will water the saplings when they are planted on Saturday, April 12, but will not water the new saplings after that. Also a "tag" could be placed with the student's "testimony" about why they wanted to adopt a tree (maybe include how old they will be when the tree is mature, etc.). Jim demonstrated one of the saplings and Mindy gave suggestions on how to plant it. Dawn suggested a system with fence posts mounted with informational plaques for each tree. John Michner was offering fiberglass plow sticks to put next to each tree to give it visibility when Public Works mows. Jim is looking into some protective sleeves that might be viable.

IV. New Business

A. Arbor Day, April 25- The Christmas tree for Franklin Park will now be donated by a family. The family wants to pick a different tree, not the Hoopsie Pine. Blue Spruce is problematic (needle cast promotes fungus). Norway Spruce, Siberian Spruce or Black Hill Spruce are more

resistant. White Pine and Douglas Fir are not recommended. This will be the decision of the Franklin Township Park District and the family donating the tree.

For our Arbor Day celebration, we will either plant one 10-foot Siberian Spruce on the north side of the pond or two Black Tupelos in Pioneer Park. Jim will make the decision.

V. Next Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeff Miller