

TREE COMMISSION

March 23, 2026

The March 23, 2026 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers by Chari Alesch, Chairperson. Tree Commission members present were Chari Alesch, Vincent Donnersbach, and Jason Lemire. Judi Lambrite and John Walker were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor; Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the October 27, 2025 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Mayor McColly introduced Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor, to the Tree Commission members. He explained that due to recent staffing changes, responsibility for street trees has been reassigned to the Streets Department. Previously, these trees were managed by the Parks Department. Moving forward, the Parks Department will oversee trees within parks, while the Streets Department will manage all street trees.

Mayor McColly announced that the 2026 Tree City USA Awards Program will be held in Maumee on May 13. All Tree Commission members are invited to attend. Mr. Korte asked that members submit their responses by the end of the day on April 3 to allow time for registration.

Mr. Korte reported that Monday, May 4, has been selected for the 2026 City of Upper Sandusky Arbor Day Program. Mayor McColly stated that he will coordinate with the Parks Manager to determine which park will host this year's event.

Mr. Taylor reported that several trees throughout the City require maintenance following recent storms. Identified locations include:

- State Route 199: stump removal (grinding) needed
- 200 block of W. Bigelow Street: limb removal needed
- Intersection of South Street and S. Eighth Street: limb removal needed

Mr. Taylor noted that he will provide additional locations and details at the next Tree Commission meeting.

Mayor McColly shared that concerns had been raised regarding trees on W. Finley Street near the USEVS bus garage. He explained that the trees have been described as messy, and that USEVS offered to cover the cost of removal and contribute toward replacement plantings. However, Keith Neiderkahr, former Parks Manager, previously evaluated the trees and determined they are healthy, recommending against removal.

Ms. Alesch stated she is familiar with the trees and described them as beautiful, recommending they remain. Mr. Lemire and Mr. Donnersbach agreed, expressing support for keeping the trees in place if no safety hazards are present. The Commission reached a consensus that no action would be taken.

Mr. Taylor reported that he is working with Bill Sowers Tree Service & Nursery to inspect trees throughout the City for signs of rot. He emphasized a proactive approach to tree maintenance to reduce the risk of damage from future storms caused by compromised trees.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant

Chari Alesch, Chairperson