

Minutes of the Meeting of the Avon Tree Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, September 11, 2024

The Chairman Rick Varga, called the meeting to order at 7:36 P.M.

PRESENT:

Commission Members: Mary Berges; Alex Boccabella; Megan Engelmann; Mary Johnson; Matt Smith; John Traxler; Liesa Wetzig; Chair Richard Varga (non-voting Member)

Others in Attendance: Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council

REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. Varga stated he would like for everyone to take a moment of silence to remember September, 11, 2001. [*moment of silence*] Mr. Varga added it is a day we all remember and he wanted to give proper recognition to that day.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVON TREE COMMISSION HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Traxler to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Tree Commission held Wednesday, August 14, 2024, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Ms. Berges, "yes"; Mr. Boccabella, "yes"; Ms. Engelmann, "yes"; Ms. Johnson, "yes"; Mr. Smith, "yes"; Mr. Traxler, "yes"; Ms. Wetzig, "yes".

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

AVON HOSTING THE TREE CITY USA IN 2025

Mr. Varga wanted to remind everyone that the Tree Commission is hosting the Tree City USA Awards here in Avon in 2025. He noted that possibly up to 60 cities may come in for these awards from all over Northeast Ohio. Mr. Varga advised it will be held at Tom's Country Place and is quite a large event for the Commission and for the City of Avon. He noted that they are moving along in the planning process and have already secured Tom's Country Place and have arranged for speakers from Ohio State University. Mr. Varga added they are very excited about hosting this event and it will be a huge event for Avon.

Ms. Wetzig inquired how will they make the payments such as billing for this event and for Arbor Day? She further inquired if they need to submit something beforehand, or does it go through the budget? Ms. Berges advised they had a meeting with Mr. Presley to discuss the budget to see what was spent last year for Arbor Day, identify what records he has, as well to discuss the budget for this year and Tree City USA.

Ms. Berges stated Mr. Presley indicated to her he would set up a separate account so they can keep track of the budget/expenses independently. In addition, Mr. Presley indicated to Ms. Berges that he could possibly make arrangements with the Parks Department for the registration to go through if people had credit cards versus checks. Ms. Berges added for Arbor Day expenses that is one of the things they are going to discuss further such as if they have expenses how they are handled through the Finance

Department. Ms. Wetzig agreed there was still time to get finances ironed out as they were ahead of schedule.

TREE RING PROJECT

Mr. Smith stated when people come into the lobby at City Hall they can see one of the tree ring timelines on display for viewing. He noted the other tree ring is located at the Cahoon House Museum on Stoney Ridge Road. He stated they have two tree rings and noted people can look at the one at City Hall if walking by it and they will also have it available for any school or scouting organization who wishes to borrow it. Mr. Smith added that Ralph White, President of the Avon Historical Society, worked with him and Mr. Varga in picking out notable events and people that they felt would be important to include on that timeline. Mr. Smith further advised that there were a lot of notable dates they could put on there and they had to bring the number down. He added if anyone had a chance and wishes to view the tree ring it is located in the City Hall lobby.

Ms. Berges advised the other aspect of the tree project is that they wanted to present it to City Council. She noted that some of the Council Members have seen it, but they may have not given it their full attention. Ms. Berges added they wanted to give it the attention that it deserves so on September 16, 2024, which is the next Work Session of Council at 7:30 p.m. they will formally present it to City Council. She invited any members of the Tree Commission who wished to attend, Ron Buchanan, who helped to finish the wood and who created a stand for the tree ring, as well as Mr. White from the Avon Historical Society would also be present. Ms. Berges advised it would be more of a formal presentation to City Council and noted that people do not have to stay for the entirety of the meeting.

Ms. Wetzig inquired if they will be bringing the tree ring to Arbor Day? Mr. Smith stated he believes they should. *There was a consensus between Mr. Smith, Ms. Wetzig, Ms. Berges and Mr. Varga to bring the tree ring to the Arbor Day event on October 5, 2024.*

Mr. Varga added it would not be problem to have it at Arbor Day as it is easily moveable. He noted that is why Mr. Buchanan did such a great job in making it maneuverable as it can be easily transported and it looks very nice.

WILLOWAY NURSERIES PLANT SALE

Mr. Varga stated the Willoway Nurseries Plant Sale is scheduled for September 15, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. He noted that Willoway Nurseries is a wholesale nursery and it is the largest wholesale nursery in Ohio. Mr. Varga advised that Willoway Nurseries is having their only retail plant sale of the year this Saturday, September 15, 2024. He noted some members of the Tree Commission will be there to help promote the Commission. Mr. Varga advised if anyone is interested they could stop by Willoway Nurseries on Saturday if they are interested in buying any plants. He added it is a great event and all of the proceeds are donated to the Avon Schools. Mr. Varga stated there are going to be a lot of fun activities in addition to buying plants. He noted while he is not involved in the planning of the event, he noted last year they had all kinds of different displays, and the band attended as well as the cheerleaders and it was quite nice.

Mr. Varga advised that there are also other vendors at the event promoting what they have as far as trees, saplings, etc. as well as giveaways and so it is a really great event. Mr. Smith stated that there are activities for kids such as inflatable bouncy houses, face painting, fairies and princesses playing with the kids, cornhole games in addition to food and music. He noted it is a big event and it is great for all ages. Mr.

Smith stated their facility is amazing to visit and he noted that anyone interested is welcome to spread the word. Mr. Smith also advised that to the right of the entrance driveway they have this beautiful arbor area that is a great place to take photos for homecoming or other events. He added it is available for photos and many people do not realize that it is there, and it is gorgeous.

DISCUSSION FOR ARBOR DAY

Mr. Varga inquired of Mr. Boccabella if they are all set with the tents as well as what day they will be setting up the tents for Arbor Day. Mr. Boccabella stated assuming the weather is good, the target date to set everything up will be on Thursday, October 3, 2024. He added the tents and stage will be set up at that time. He added that the tables and the chairs will be delivered as well that day. He noted he will be on-site Saturday at 8:30 a.m. to set up the tables and chairs to complete the balance of the set-up. Mr. Boccabella added a couple of hours should be sufficient to have it ready in time. He noted at that point in time they will also hang the Tree City USA banner as well as the Tree Commission banner if it is ready.

Mr. Boccabella advised in regard to site setup, he talked to the Streets Department and they have confirmed that the restrooms will be open, the trash receptacles will be delivered, and the streets will be closed. Mr. Varga noted hopefully they will have their banner ready by then as well. Mr. Boccabella noted that he spoke to the owner of Graffiti Wearhouse and he confirmed that he will make the banner for the Tree Commission at no charge. Mr. Boccabella advised that he sent to the owner the final version of the banner that Ms. Englemann put together. Mr. Boccabella stated the owner was checking to size it and Mr. Boccabella gave him a target size of 3 foot by 8 foot for the banner. The owner is going to aim to put what Ms. Engleman designed into that size. Mr. Boccabella noted that if for some reason the graphics and quality do not look right, the owner indicated that he may need to downsize or adjust the size. Mr. Boccabella stated he is in communication with the owner to determine if that size will work. He added he estimates if everything is fine with the sizing and design of the banner it should be completed in time.

Mr. Varga inquired if anyone had any suggestions for giveaways for Arbor Day. Ms. Wetzig responded that she has some for the scavenger hunt that were provided to her by Ms. Laurenzi last year. She noted it was only like 30 items consisting of bubbles, books, water bottles etc. Mr. Varga advised he looked into the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and they have coloring books for .81 a piece if they buy 100 of them. He noted they also have these tattoos "Trees are Great" and believes they can get 200 tattoos for like \$10 which is within their budget so he is going to procure these things from the ISA for Arbor Day. Mr. Varga added the ISA also has informational pamphlets of 100 in a binder and cost about \$15 that they would give away and it includes information such as how trees matter, how to plant a tree, how to water a tree and they are all separate giveaways, and he believes they can start out with those as well.

Mr. Varga stated they have a list of sponsors from last year but if anyone knows of anyone who wishes to become a sponsor to let him know. He noted the only sponsor he could not get a hold of was Petiti's Garden Center as he gets referred to corporate but has not been able to connect with a representative. He noted he will try again to reach a representative at Petiti's Garden Center. Mr. Varga named some of the participating sponsors for Arbor Day: Avon Brewing Company, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, Cork & Barrel Wine Bar, Heinen's, Inforno Neapolitan Pizza, Ray's Auto and Truck Service, Pickering Hill Farms, Site One Landscape Supply, Taylor True Value Rental, and X-Golf. Mr. Varga noted that Willoway Nurseries advised they will have something this year for the Tree Commission. Mr. Varga also noted Davey Tree Expert Company and the Avon Garden Club as sponsors. He added they plan to look into and communicate with

the Lorain County Metro Parks to try to get the parks involved including a set up as they could promote their organization. Ms. Wetzig advised she talked to the Garden Club and they will probably have a mum like they did last year. She noted they will also assist with the scavenger hunt so they will have a table and a tent with the Tree Commission unless they will be needed in another location at Arbor Day.

Michelle Morahan of the Service Department stated she is here with David Smith of Chagrin Valley Engineering and they wished to bring to their attention regarding having a table at the Arbor Day event for a storm water management type of a program with the City. Ms. Morahan advised they wanted to have a table at Arbor Day and do a rain barrel giveaway including some training on how to create a rain barrel. She noted they wanted to make sure they can include that, and Mr. Matt Smith advised they should probably come to a meeting to discuss what their needs are or see what the Commission needs from them in order to do this. Ms. Morahan stated they have handouts and they will have someone there training as well as a drawing for a rain barrel.

Mr. Varga stated that for Thursday night on October 3, 2024, once they get the tentative setup, if someone can go there on Friday the day before Arbor Day so they can see how much space they actually need so the Commission can accommodate what is needed. David Smith advised he will be there on Friday, October 4, 2024, and inquired as to the time. Mr. Varga advised about 3:00 p.m., and they will have a rehearsal and go over everything such as who will be where at which time and he should know what the Lorain County Metro Parks needs are at that point. He also noted the possible needs for the scavenger hunt and the Garden Club and what they would need to do. Mr. Varga advised he has the tent set up so he has a pretty good perspective of what space they have so they can also focus on what the Service Department needs and that they have enough area for their setup.

Ms. Morahan inquired of Mr. Varga if they would provide the tables and the chairs etc. as well? Mr. Varga confirmed they would provide that for Ms. Morahan and he will ensure that they have those items available. Mr. Varga stated that is why they try to have a couple extra tables in addition to having everyone there on Friday so they can set things up and move forward. Mr. Smith stated that Ms. Wetzig was asking if they may have them set up at the Storybook Trail but if they set up in that area, they would want to have their own tent or have something like a canopy tent, he inquired if they have something like that? Ms. Morahan advised that the Street Department has one that they just purchased for the Safety Fair so they could certainly use that if needed.

Mr. Smith stated they are trying to get vendors by the area of the Storybook Trail like how it is arranged for the "Not So Spooky Halloween" event on past occasions. He added that previously they had vendors in their tents and it was really jammed with people. Mr. Smith noted that he and Ms. Berges went to the "Not So Spooky Halloween" event last year and all the vendors were spread out on the Storybook Trail and it was logistically better and looked nicer. Mr. Matt Smith stated they would need to look it over to help the Service Department get setup.

Ms. Morahan advised she will put together the work order for the Street Department as far as all the other items the Tree Commission would need so that is all set. She added the other thing she wanted to mention since Tree City USA was brought up regarding the expenses related to Arbor Day. She reminded them that she needs all that information as well for the Tree City USA application as supporting documents. She noted there is an account already set up for that. Ms. Morahan reminded the Commission to keep track of their time for reporting purposes and Mr. Varga advised that they are.

Mr. Varga inquired of Mr. Traxler for an update on the tree giveaways for Arbor Day. Mr. Traxler stated they looked at four different trees to hand out and those are for the free trees they would give to up to 30 residents. Those trees were two large trees which were a Red Maple, Franksred Maple, a Coccinea, Scarlet Oak, as well as two smaller trees which consist of a Flowering Dogwood and a Redbud. He added those trees will be at the dock when they go on Saturday so they can put those out and display them. Mr. Traxler stated with the price they do not have to preorder so if someone wants more of one variety versus another they will sell it to us as opposed to making an order beforehand.

Mr. Varga stated to recap what they are going to do with the trees this year, the Tree Commission is having larger trees compared to in the past where they would giveaway little seedlings that were two and a quarter inch pods. He added a lot of cities giveaway bare root seedlings but they got the idea for the larger trees from Fairview Park's Arbor Day. Mr. Varga noted at these types of events he will meet with different arborists throughout the community. He stated the idea of having larger trees for a giveaway on the condition that the person would attend a class to learn how to plant and take care of it including how to water it and prune it was a better one. Mr. Varga stated he believes this way they feel they can give to those who really want a tree versus those that just want something for free. He added if they really want the tree they are going to take the class and then receive their tree and that is what they are focused on this year. He noted this way they feel there is a high survival rate for the tree and it will benefit the community more. Mr. Traxler stated they are very nice trees that measure about 4 feet tall so people would be getting something that has quite a bit of value. He added he believes it is exciting to try this program to see if they can implement it on a larger scale.

Ms. Wetzig stated that she and Mr. Traxler met regarding to the scavenger hunt and they decided they are going to do an activity where you find the tree to then spell out Avon, Ohio. She added the Garden Club will be attending and they plan to assist with this activity. She also noted they are trying to get some Leo Club members to also assist but believes that weekend is homecoming. Ms. Wetzig stated she has some toy items for the activities like binoculars. She noted Mr. Traxler was going to look to see what trees they have in order to come up with their answer. She noted they at least have the binoculars so they can look at the trees for clues. Mr. Traxler stated it is a way to make the event a little bit different and still fun for the kids.

Mr. Varga stated he was collecting acorns as they plan on having an acorn contest where people could guess how many acorns are in a jar. He added this year he would like to have three prizes which would consist of a main prize, a second prize then a third prize. He noted this is in comparison to last year where they only had one main prize. He thought having three prizes would be more exciting as they would have more winners. Ms. Wetzig stated she has the entry forms for that as well as the signage. Ms. Englemann stated the Avon Girl Scouts are interested in coming and will be helping with the opening ceremony if that can be worked out with Mr. Smith. She also noted in reference to the face painting, she checked in with the High School Art Club to see if they are interested but have not heard back yet. Ms. Englemann advised she will continue to try to reach out to the Art Club and believes that due to homecoming maybe it is possible that the advisor was unable to get any interested parties. She added worst case scenario she will do the face painting activity herself.

Ms. Wetzig stated last year they had some Leo Club members that arrived in the morning and stayed a couple hours. Ms. Englemann noted that maybe she could also mention that to the Girl Scouts and maybe that is something they would be able to do to help. Mr. Varga asked if there any interest in the Girl Scouts singing the National Anthem during the opening ceremony?

Ms. Englemann responded that she could ask the Girl Scouts regarding singing the National Anthem and get back to Mr. Varga and Mr. Smith with an answer, but she had some concerns as most of the Girl Scouts were younger girls and they may not know the words to the song or have enough confidence to lead a song in that kind of setting. She felt confident the Girl Scouts could lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and possibly assist the Mayor in some small way, but singing the National Anthem may not be something suitable for a young group of Girl Scouts. Ms. Englemann suggested someone reach out to the high school about the choir singing the National Anthem as that might be the best option.

Mr. Smith advised he would reach out to the choir to see if there is interest in singing the National Anthem. Ms. Englemann stated that the Girl Scouts could always sing along but they would need someone to carry them since they are only First, Second, and Third graders. Mr. Smith advised the dilemma is that normally the Avon High School sends choir members but the choir director is going to be unavailable so there is not another direct supervisor.

Trevor Grzelak, 3384 Truxton Place, audience member, stated he is a member of the Avon Band program which includes the Jazz Band and Marching Band, he offered to ask the band if they needed someone to perform for Arbor Day. Mr. Smith stated he sent an email several weeks ago to Mr. Martin but he did not get a response back. Mr. Grzelak advised Mr. Martin is the Orchestra Teacher, and noted that since it is short notice he would be unable to confirm anything, but they do have pieces they could play if they needed a spot for that or anything. Mr. Smith noted the choir team did about 4-5 songs previously and the last one was the National Anthem and inquired of Mr. Grzelak if the band could possibly play the National Anthem. Mr. Grzelak confirmed know that song.

Ms. Wetzig asked Mr. Grzelak who is his advisor. Mr. Grzelak stated that Mr. Ethan Eraybar runs the concert band and marching band. Mr. Smith inquired if he is a teacher and Mr. Grzelak confirmed that he is a teacher. Mr. Smith requested Mr. Eraybar's title. Mr. Grzelak responded his title is Band Conductor and noted he could get in touch with the Jazz Instructor as well who is Eric Moellman. Mr. Smith further inquired of Mr. Grzelak if there are teachers at the high school that he would be able to contact and Mr. Grzelak confirmed. Mr. Grzelak stated he believes Mr. Moellman works at the Middle School or maybe Heritage Elementary School, but he is also the Jazz Instructor. Ms. Wetzig stated what she was wondering if there was anyone at the middle school as they may not be as involved with homecoming. Mr. Smith stated the National Anthem would start at 11:00 a.m. and they would be done in approximately 20 minutes so they could leave if needed. Mr. Grzelak inquired on the date of the event and Mr. Smith advised that it is on Saturday, October 5, 2024, and it is right next to Every Child's Playground on Detroit Road by the area of the swimming pool and behind the Avon Post Office.

Mr. Smith stated they are going to have a stage set up at the event and offered to Mr. Grzelak if the band wants to come up to perform that he would reach out to those contacts that were mentioned. Mr. Grzelak stated he could also ask about it tomorrow. Mr. Smith gave his contact information to Mr. Grzelak. Mr. Smith suggested that Mr. Grzelak mention to Mr. Moellman the Tree Commission would like the National Anthem or any other pieces they would want to play and he could call him to discuss further.

Ms. Wetzig asked what instrument Mr. Grzelak plays and he responded that he plays the trombone. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Grzelak and suggested that possible next year both the choir and band could perform at opening ceremony of Arbor Day. Mr. Grzelak agreed. Mr. Smith asked if the band played at the Willoway Nurseries community event as last year he recalls there was a whole percussion unit there from the high school. Mr. Grzelak stated he was not exactly sure as he did not hear anything about that this year. Mr.

Smith stated he knows the high school had people there so he could relay his information and Mr. Moellman could give him a call but he will also try to reach out to him as well.

Mr. Varga inquired about securing the giveaway bags for Arbor Day and Ms. Berges showed an example of the bags that they used last year and they were great except for the fact that they are dated. She noted they also had a lot left over and they were donated to Avon Schools so the students hopefully got some use out of them. Ms. Berges added this year it is going to be similar to a shopping bag, so it is going to be a little taller if it gets approved. She advised the bag would have the new Tree Commission logo and it would say Avon Arbor Day and the City of Avon. Ms. Berges stated everything is essentially the same except for the logo and the date/year would not be listed. Ms. Berges stated if they ordered 121 bags with all the added charges and colors, it would cost \$519. Ms. Berges stated the reason for 121 bags is that she was trying to keep it reasonable, and they could always order more the following year. She advised this is a vendor the City uses so they are already set up.

Mr. Varga noted that price is under budget from what was spent on bags last year. Ms. Wetzig confirmed and stated they would have the print already set up so when they order more, they can utilize that. Ms. Berges stated correct, and it would probably be less expensive next year because they would not have to set up charges like they have this year. Ms. Wetzig inquired if she knows how many they had ordered for last year? Ms. Berges advised it was 250 bags. Ms. Wetzig agreed they had a lot left over last year.

Mr. Varga noted the aspect of advertising and promotions of their Arbor Day event and inquired who was going to handle flyer distribution such as libraries, schools, the post office, local businesses in addition to newspaper ads and social media? Ms. Englemann stated she already did all of that, so it is all set. Mr. Smith stated he did see it on the Facebook page "Avon in the Know" but thanked Ms. Englemann. Ms. Englemann stated it was thanks to Ms. Berges as she sent her a list of the places that they were sent to last year, so she sent emails with the flyer attached. She noted there were a lot of positive responses with a thank you, some were quiet, but she believes they all were received. Ms. Englemann stated she sent a flyer to the Avon Post Office email that she was given for the electronic sign, so if there are any other places that anyone would like her to send or post just let her know and she can do that this week. Ms. Wetzig inquired if Ms. Englemann also sent it out to the schools as well. Ms. Englemann responded she did, a couple parents responded that they got it.

Mr. Varga stated they are going to do the tree planting right after the opening ceremony like they did last year while everyone is there then they can move on to other events from that point. He advised that is the main thing with the City is to make sure they have the demonstration of the tree planting. Mr. Traxler asked if a location has been picked out? Mr. Varga advised not yet, but they can decide that when they are there on Friday, October 4, 2024.

Mr. Varga stated Cork & Barrel are going to do food offerings along the lines of brats, etc. He added the City will donate the bottled water and Mr. Presley indicated he would get some cider from Pickering Hill Farms. Mr. Varga asked the Commission if overall they are all set with the tents, tables, etc. Ms. Wetzig confirmed her husband went online and applied and paid for the permit so it can be turned in to the Clerk. She noted the permit also lists instructions.

Mr. Varga stated they have the Neil Young Tribute band with Curt Vigg for the Arbor Day entertainment. He added they also have the petting zoo and possibly the face painting. Ms. Wetzig asked what are they are doing for the beer, such as what kinds of beer? Mr. Smith stated he would need to get that, and Ms.

Wetzig stated she would print out a sign. Ms. Englemann inquired what the expectations are for board members for participation in set up, clean up, etc. She added she wanted to ensure she allots enough time if she needs to be there early to set up or would they just be there for the duration of the event. Mr. Varga stated if they could all make it on Friday he was considering doing a brief rehearsal so that everyone can help setup. Mr. Varga added so everyone is on the same page as far as what tasks they are doing such as the scavenger hunt, tree planting after the opening ceremonies, and he will have a complete schedule of events then everyone would know and be able to participate in accordance with what they feel comfortable filling in the time slots.

Mr. Varga noted they would be communicating via email what is going on, participating, any additional sponsors, etc. He added that he and Mr. Smith are going to look around for a couple new sponsors such as Davey Tree Experts as well as a few other places so they will be working on that.

Ms. Berges stated last year they had a budget of \$5,000 for Arbor Day and they did not spend \$5,000 which is fine as they do not have to spend everything. Ms. Berges stated she would like to make a motion that the Tree Commission have a \$5,000 budget this year for their Arbor Day event.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Wetzig for the Tree Commission to have a \$5,000 budget for their 2024 Arbor Day event and the vote was: Ms. Englemann, "yes"; Ms. Johnson, "yes"; Mr. Smith, "yes"; Mr. Traxler, "yes". Ms. Wetzig, "yes", Ms. Berges, "yes"; Mr. Boccabella, "yes".

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Ms. Wetzig inquired if there is a certain way they have to submit their invoices like a form that gets attached? Mr. Varga stated they discussed that as they were to present it to the City before they buy anything. He stated for example they proposed the bags and stated it was going to be certain number of dollars and they went over the budget for Willoway Nurseries last year, so they needed a purchase order for that. Ms. Berges stated Mr. Presley would prefer to know ahead of time where you are purchasing from and then they usually issue a purchase order. Ms. Wetzig stated she works at the school and you do not get paid if you do not turn it in beforehand and have a purchase order out. Mr. Smith confirmed Mr. Presley would want a purchase order. It was confirmed that a planned purchase would need submitted first to Mr. Presley.

Ms. Berges wished to thank Mr. Varga for arranging the trip to Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio, yesterday morning. She added it was the first time she visited Secrest Arboretum and it was so impressive and she cannot wait to do some of those things at the Traxler Family Arboretum. Mr. Varga stated field trips with the Tree Commission help to spur ideas. He has a colleague who is a professor at Ohio State University give them a tour of the Secrest Arboretum as he is very knowledgeable.

MEMBER COMMENTS –

There were no comments.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS –

Nicholas Duvall, 36400 Kinzel Road, stated he would like to ask Ms. Englemann a question. Mr. Duvall inquired of Ms. Englemann if she had the pamphlets for the Arbor Day event. Ms. Englemann confirmed she has the flyers. Mr. Duvall was hoping that possibly he could have some to pass out at the Boy Scout meeting as he could distribute them and there could potentially be a lot more people as his scout meeting

is this weekend. Ms. Engelmann asked how many he has in his Troop. Mr. Duvall responded there are about 30 kids so maybe 30 flyers approximately for use. Ms. Englemann advised there are some printed out there, they will make sure they get some and thanked Mr. Duvall for inquiring and it was very nice for him to offer to hand them out. Mr. Varga gave the requested flyers to Mr. Duvall to distribute and thanked him.

Mr. Grzelak wanted to let the Commission know that he is very interested in the Tree Commission. He is in marching band and the arts, and believes they have a lot of great parks and great nature in this community, and he is hopeful he can help out. Mr. Varga stated one of the things that they are trying to do is focus on the saving our tree canopy in the City. He added they have been working diligently on the tree ordinances for Avon. Mr. Varga added they eventually want to do tree inventories in working with the Tree City USA and that is part of what they hope to get everyone involved in doing to save more trees. When there is development many times there is not a single tree left. He noted most Tree Cities that have good tree ordinances have a tree protection plan in place so they can at least evaluate trees to save a tree worth saving instead of taking every single tree down. Mr. Varga added that is just a part of what they are doing, it is something to think about and it is really exciting when you start thinking about saving trees. He noted no trees, no humans, it is as simple as that.

Ms. Englemann asked if Mr. Grzelak also volunteers for the Good Knights program. Mr. Grzelak confirmed that he does volunteer there. Ms. Englemann inquired how long has he been doing that? Mr. Grzelak responded about a year, and added he has a group of friends that go as well. He said they are also organizing a fundraiser at the moment called "*The Pillow Fight*" in which they are getting fire and police units together and they are competing to raise money. He noted he is the organizer for that fundraiser.

Ms. Englemann stated the Girl Scouts have made pillowcases for the Good Knights organization before, and it is a very cool volunteer opportunity. She stated Good Knights makes beds for kids who need them in Lorain County, and it is a great organization and stated it was really cool to see that listed on his application. Mr. Grzelak stated he loves it.

Ms. Englemann inquired of Nicholas Duvall if he is also a student applicant for the Tree Commission. Mr. Duvall confirmed that he is, and Mr. Varga confirmed that he spoke to both Mr. Grzelak and Mr. Duvall earlier.

No further discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:25 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Berges to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Avon Tree Commission, and the vote was: Ms. Johnson, "yes"; Mr. Smith, "yes"; Mr. Traxler, "yes"; Ms. Wetzig, "yes", Ms. Berges, "yes"; Mr. Boccabella, "yes". Ms. Engelmann, "yes".

The vote was 7 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Avon Tree Commission is Wednesday,
October 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council