

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Tree Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, October 8, 2025
At 7:30 p.m.**

The Chairman Mr. Varga, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

PRESENT:

Commission Members: Alex Boccabella; Megan Englemann; Olivia Pajak (non-voting Student Member); Matt Smith; John Traxler; Liesa Wetzig; Chair, Richard Varga (non-voting Member).

Others in Attendance: Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council

Absent - Mary Berges; Mary Johnson; John Gasior, Law Director

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE AVON TREE COMMISSION HELD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

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, September 10, 2025, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was:, Mr. Boccabella, “yes”; Ms. Englemann, “yes”; Mr. Smith, “yes”; Mr. Traxler, “yes”; Ms. Wetzig, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

REVIEW OF THE 2025 ARBOR DAY EVENT, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025 Mr. Varga

Mr. Varga reported that the Arbor Day event held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, went extremely well. The weather was great, and Alice an Avon High School student, who sang the national anthem, was fabulous, as was the student led jazz band.

Mr. Varga suggested that for future events, they consider placing signage by Detroit Road pointing to the Aquatic Center to help direct people to the event. He noted that people driving by might forget about the event, but seeing a sign could remind them.

Mr. Smith mentioned that additional signage for the Storybook Trail would be helpful. He shared feedback from a parent with young children who wasn't aware of the Storybook Trail despite signs being posted. Mr. Smith praised the Storybook Trail, noting it was enjoyable for both children and adults but was removed by Sunday.

Ms. Wetzig reported they had printed 70 scavenger hunt forms and ran out toward the end, compared to 50 forms used last year. Ms. Wetzig clarified they could have used about 10 more forms to be safe, and mentioned that the prizes and tattoos were a big hit with the children.

Mr. Smith discussed the Arbor Day signs placed around town, noting he put out 18 signs and recovered 17, with one missing. He suggested enhancing the visibility of the signs by outlining the bold letters with permanent markers. Ms. Wetzig indicated she might be able to help with this task.

Ms. Wetzig acknowledged the assistance of the Garden Club, who helped manage the scavenger hunt and tree giveaway, allowing volunteers time to handle other tasks. She recommended having water available next year and noted that Paul Johnson helped with recycling.

Mr. Smith mentioned the “811 - Call Before You Dig” demonstration was successful and popular with children while being informative for adults.

Mr. Smith reported that beer sales were lower than expected despite the hot weather, with about two cases sold compared to over three cases last year. Mr. Varga shared a text message from Ms. Johnson stating that the Leo Club raised a combined \$361 from pizza and beer sales, received positive feedback from the Metro Parks who expressed interest in returning next year, and confirmed that the 811 demonstration was a great addition.

Ms. Englemann noted there were more children this year than previously and suggested offering a more family-friendly beverage option for purchase next year, such as hot chocolate or lemonade depending on the weather.

Ms. Wetzig reported that the drawing went well, with children drawing the names for prizes, and all winners happened to be present at the event.

Mr. Varga thanked everyone for their help and teamwork in making the event a success.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2025 TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION APPLICATION Mr. Varga
Mr. Varga distributed activity tracking sheets to all members and explained that they should record all Tree Commission-related activities, including meetings, Tree City USA events, forestry conference attendance, and other related activities. He offered to complete his form and email it to everyone as an example.

Mr. Varga mentioned that he would speak with Michelle Morahan from the Streets Department, who is coordinating the application, to determine next steps and would keep members informed of the process.

DISCUSSION OF APPLYING FOR GROWTH AWARDS THROUGH THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION Mr. Varga
Mr. Varga reported that Ms. Johnson, who was absent, would be handling the growth awards application. He noted they needed to obtain the password from Ms. Morahan to access the online application system.

DISCUSSION OF THE STUDENT APPLICATION Mr. Smith
Mr. Smith reported that no students had applied for the open student position by the October 1st deadline. He suggested extending the deadline to November 1st. Ms. Pajak agreed to have the application information announced daily at the high school until November 1st, and Mr. Smith would try to establish an online link through the City website. Applications could be mailed or emailed to the City.

Mr. Varga mentioned there was a previously interested individual who was not eligible last year because they were not 16 years old until November 20th. He said he would reach out to this person as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Wetzig to extend the deadline for the student application to November 1, 2025, and the vote was Ms. Englemann, “yes”; Mr. Smith, “yes”; Mr. Traxler, “yes”; Ms. Wetzig, “yes”; Mr. Boccabella, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Ms. Berges was absent.

Mr. Boccabella had no comments.

Ms. Engelmann had no comments.

Ms. Johnson had was absent.

Ms. Pajak. had no comments.

Mr. Smith had no comments.

Mr. Traxler had no comments.

Ms. Wetzig had no comments.

Mr. Varga thanked everyone again for their teamwork and contributions to the Arbor Day event, noting that it went extremely smoothly.

AUDIENCE:

There were no comments from the audience.

ADJOURN: 7:49 p.m.

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

The vote was 5 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, November 12, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council

PASSED: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
Rick Varga, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council