

Richfield Village Tree and Landscape Commission Minutes February 11, 2026

Call to Order: 6:30

Present: Ralph Waszak, Carol Campbell, Diane Nagy, Sheila Schreiner

Others Present: Mayor Wheeler, Walt Dorsey

Absent: Ryan Smarsh

Election of Officers

Chair- Carol Campbell

Vice Chair: Sheila Schreiner

Secretary: Diane Nagy

Approval of Minutes-October 15, 2

025, Approved with corrections motion made by Shelia, seconded by Carol, and approved by all.

Mayor's Report:

- Allega Way will become a dedicated road after the installation of a traffic light. This process will take 6-9 months. We now own the easement property so we can do some landscaping.
- Council Approved appointment of Frank Aiello as a part-time fire medic after the chief read his biography.
- Summer camp is open and full for all 8 weeks
- We received \$9,000 last year from USTA for equipment, some of which was used for benches. We received another \$2,500 this year for a gate lock on the tennis courts. We will take \$5,00 from the grant last year and purchase 2 more gate locks so we will have 3 smart locks for the tennis courts. All done without costing a dime to the Village a dime.
- The Akron Summit Age Friendly Coordinating Council met on January 20th to review our progress in 2025. Many goals were accomplished which included Leader Akron NEXT, older adult volunteer program for after retirement as well as partners with seniors who are already volunteers to help with documentation, volunteering opportunities through the Age Friendly Council organizations.

Legislative Updates:

- The City of Akron's plan to demolish the former Firestone Pant #1 was stopped in it's tracks, a new round of community conversations is starting this week to consider strategies to save-at the very least- the most recognizable feature of the Rubber City industrial landmark.
- Sen. Tom Patton, R-Strongsville, has introduced a bill that would require voter approval of the installation of cameras that detect traffic violations. He calls the use of such cameras a "quick cash grab" and Invasive"

- U.S. Rep Jim Jordan and U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno are urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold President Donald Trump's executive order that would end birthright citizenship for children born in the United States to parents without permanent legal status.
- Ohio Lawmakers are considering legislation that would require daily recess for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, guaranteeing time for physical activity during the school day. House Bill 304, would mandate 30 minutes of recess in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon for K-8 students in public, community, STEM, and College-preparatory board schools.

Items of Discussion:

- Arbor Day 2026
 - Revisited conversation from the fall about moving Arbor Day Tree Give Away to May due to some community conflicts. Not possible for this year.
 - Arbor Day Tree give Away April 25, 2026,
 - Many ideas talked about for this event hoping to make to more than just a tree grab and go and more of a fun family event.
 - Perhaps holding it on the green and having activities in Masonic Hall. Concerns were raised due to potential spring construction of Sweet Magnolias, and the impact the event would have on Brewery parking. A suggestion was made to maybe use the Senior Center for activities since other parts of the event are held behind the town hall, this way everything would be close together. Activities talked about were a band, coloring contest, and tree planting demonstration.
- Heritage Tree Program
 - Plant a tree in honor of America's 250th birthday, a suggested tree was white oak, since it is a native tree and is hardy. Where to plant? Maybe by the Senior Center.
- Public Art
 - Council is looking into creating a Public Art Commission separate from Tree and Landscape. There is a community member interested in perhaps starting a fund for this endeavor. Talks have just begun.
- Other
 - Carol Campbell had information about a Hometown Hero Banner program. This program would allow community members to have banners of their loved one who served in the armed forces displayed on poles around the community.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Adjourn: 8:02, Diane Nagy made the motion and Sheila