



Akron Tree Commission

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The Tree Commission convened in regular session on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 1:31 p.m. via videoconference with Sarah Vradenburg chairing. The meeting was livestreamed on YouTube.

Commission Members present: Sandy Agosta, Sara Biviano, Gabe Forte', Eufrancia Lash (late), Jacqui Ricchiuti, Brittany Robinson (late), and Sarah Vradenburg

Commission Members absent: Patricia Wyatt

Others in attendance: Matthew Knull, Arborist; Jessica Glowczewski, Watershed Superintendent

Motion by Forte' to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 regular meeting. Motion carried. Roll call vote. Ayes: 5, Nays: 0 (Lash & Robinson did not vote)

Unfinished Business:

Public Education Strategy: Discussion was held on having items to pass out at events as well as a QR Code. Gabe Forte' will reach out to Communications Director Stephanie Marsh regarding what the Commission is permitted to do while conforming to branding, etc. Matt Knull will update the brochure with names of Commission members and add a QR code that goes to the website. Brittany and Sarah will work on consistent language for the Commission.

Ward Meetings: The Commission is invited to attend the Ward 6 meeting on May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ellet Community Center and the Ward 1 Meeting July 1st. Matt Knull has a 5-to-10-minute presentation and will then take questions.

Project Acorn: Jessica Glowczewski expressed gratitude to the Commission for the Arbor Day event. She informed them that this is the last week of the Birch Cohort and they will be graduating on Thursday. They will continue to host the academy, but Akron Zoo will be hiring for the Fall/Spring cohorts. She intends to have an application link to share mid-June. She also informed the Commission that she is working with students at Jennings CLC on reforest of some of the land and will keep the Commission updated.

Urban Forestry Grant: Matt Knull stated that Casey Shevlin is working with a third-party for community engagement.

New Business:

Election of Vice-Chair: Sara Biviano nominated Gabe Forte' for the Vice-Chair position. There were no other nominations. Roll Call vote. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0 (Robinson did not vote as she was not on camera for this portion of the meeting).

Creation of a list of recommended contractors: Matt Knull would like to put this together; he will run it by the Law Department and hopes to have a list by the next meeting.

Public Comment:

None

For the Good of the Order:

No further business, Vradenburg adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.


Sara Biviano, Secretary


Sarah Vradenburg, Chair