

Akron Documenters

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Tree Commission

Documenter name: London Green

Agency: None

Date: Oct. 21, 2025

[See more about this meeting at Documenters.org](#)

Notes to reader: *Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at documenters@signalakron.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.*

Summary

- There will be fewer than 900 trees planted by the end of November due to the weather for the fall plantings, which slightly impacts [the tree planting master plan which called for 1,800 trees](#). Planting could go into December. More than 900 trees were planted in the spring.
- The commission raised concerns about proper objection filing. There's dialogue surrounding the potential lowering of the \$15 filing fee, providing education around how to properly file an objection and creating a specific form to [file an objection against a tree being planted](#).

Follow-Up Questions

- Why are there more tree objections in the spring than in the fall?
- Why is there no official form for residents to file when they have an objection?
- Will there be a poll conducted to find out if/how residents are struggling with filing a proper objection?

Notes

The meeting started at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes were approved from the last meeting on [Sept. 16, 2025](#).

See the full meeting [here](#).

Unfinished Business

Social Media/Website

- Members need to submit for the website headshots and bios that could also be used for social media
- Commission Member Casey Shevlin is meeting with the city communications team to make updates to the website, which should be minor

Additions to [the website](#):

- Pictures
- Tree graphics
- Bios and photos of commission members

Autumn Planting Plans

- A list of tree sources is almost complete. Once it is, commission member and city arborist Matthew Knull will visit the nursery and tag the trees.
- [Fewer than 900 trees](#) will be planted this fall. Trees will come from up to seven different nurseries.
- The planting will start later than usual due to the weather; other tree species will be planted in the spring, which slightly [impacts the plan](#).
- By the end of November, all the trees should be planted, but the process could extend into December if the ground doesn't freeze. An update will be given at next month's meeting

Upcoming Events

- November is the last month for the Tree Commission Academy for three of the commission members

New Business

- Commission Member and City Council Member Jeff Fusco brought up the appeal process for the fall tree [planting objections](#). Members made several points during

the discussion:

- Knull has been dealing with the appeals individually. Most appellants did not want to pay the \$15 fee or show up for the hearing. He plans to keep a close eye on some of the trees, and some appellants he will contact again
 - There were fewer objections in the fall than there were in the spring.
 - Members discussed lowering the \$15 fee to \$5 – the concern is that this will require changing the ordinance
 - Knull thinks that the process of submitting a fee is what keeps people from objecting properly; he doesn't think that the fee should be removed entirely
 - City Attorney [John Skakun](#) and Commission Member Eufancia Lash said changing the ordinance is out of the scope of the commission and that the decision would be up to city council.
 - Lash also pointed out that other enforcement mechanisms require the same \$15 fee, and if the board were to put forth a motion to reduce the fee, it would be against the direction that the city is going
 - Commission Member Gabe Forté was curious as to how much the commission receives annually in fees and the cost-benefit analysis of lowering the \$15 fee
 - Commission Member Sandy Agosta is working on a garden called The Growing Minds Memory Garden. She said that, in certain neighborhoods, the \$15 fee for objecting might be difficult for some.
 - Commission Member Brittany Robinson said it could be beneficial to provide education about properly submitting an objection form.
 - There is no official form to file an objection with the commission; instructions on how and where to file objections are provided when new tree information letters are sent out. The current process requires residents to file a written objection at the service director's office, along with the \$15 fee. It was mentioned that there are forms about trees under the park option on the city website. (The topic was suggested to be deferred until the beginning of the year.)
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- Forté gave an update on the tree planting at Patterson Park in conjunction with the Cleveland Clinic and the City of Akron. In the future, he plans to make sure the entire commission is aware of tree plantings.

The meeting ended at 2 p.m.

