

Meeting Minutes

City of Takoma Park Tree Commission

08 December 2009

Members present:

Carol Hotton, Chair
Nicolien van Schouwen
Betsy Strickler
Melanie Fosnaught

Counsel present:

Ken Sigman of Silber, Perlman, Sigman & Tilev, P.A.

Also in attendance was John Hemphill, an applicant for appointment to the commission, who attended as a resident of Takoma Park.

The meeting came to order at 6:30 in the Atrium Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. The agenda was to discuss the draft status report to the City Clerk, which had been circulated December 6th via e-mail. The members discussed the proposed status report and agreed that it accurately reflected Tree Commission activities and should be forwarded to the City Clerk by the Chair. Members also discussed the status of current Tree Commission activities and ideas for future activities. Highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- Members agreed that a Spanish translation of the Tree Ordinance should be made available if it is not currently available, and Carol Hotton agreed to inquire about the feasibility of that.
- A question arose as to who maintains the City website for Tree Commission materials, and Nicolien van Schouwen agreed to investigate that.
- A discussion of community outreach programs included the following (with the assigned point person in parentheses): outreach to schools, for education about trees, their importance to the community and ecosystem, and their care (Nicolien van Schouwen); public outreach regarding the native seeds program (Betsy Strickler); public service outreach via City of Takoma Park cable (Melanie Fosnaught).
- A discussion of the Champion Trees contest left open the question of whether it was something the Commission would continue to pursue. Melanie Fosnaught agreed to check into the possibility of coordinating with county and/or state champion tree programs.

The public meeting adjourned at 7pm, and commissioners and counsel moved into closed session to discuss disposition of a case that had been heard before the Tree Commission.