

Meeting Minutes

City of Takoma Park Tree Commission

09 March 2010

Members present:

Carol Hotton, Chair

John Hemphill

Melanie Fosnaught

The meeting came to order at 6:30 in the Atrium Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. Members welcomed John (Ken) Hemphill, the newest member of the tree commission, and the chair provided him with an orientation packet containing the tree ordinance, bylaws, procedures, and contact information for other members. The agenda was to discuss avenues for outreach regarding the tree ordinance and the city's forest management plan. Highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- Members discussed the arborist's recent report to council, in which council had directed that he perform more outreach. Members agreed that an important role of the Tree Commission is to support the arborist in these efforts.
- Members discussed outreach efforts to ensure residents are informed about the tree ordinance, tree care, and the management of the urban forest. Carol Hotton reported that she had inquired with the city clerk about the possibility of having materials translated into Spanish, and that the city clerk had referred the question to the arborist. Melanie Fosnaught offered to write an article for the city newsletter to promote the upcoming Arbor Day tree giveaway, highlighting the trees that Ken Hemphill had received in an earlier giveaway.
- Members also discussed the draft Tree Commission Status Report that Carol had prepared for the city council. Ms. Hotton agreed to forward a copy of the report to Todd as a courtesy before it went forward to council.
- Members also discussed the possibility of having a page linked to the city web site that would allow the Commission to post educational materials. There were concerns about being able to supply enough content to keep it fresh, but members agreed to discuss the idea further at an upcoming meeting when more Tree Commissioners would be present.

Action items:

- Carol Hotton to send the Tree Commission Status Report to the other Tree Commissioners for review and comment and then to send to the arborist.
- Carol Hotton to invite the arborist to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss coordinating outreach activities with Tree Commission.
- Melanie Fosnaught to contact the city newsletter editor to discuss deadline for a story for April issue, and then interview Ken Hemphill and the arborist and write the story.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.