

## **Minutes of Takoma Park Tree Commission meeting**

July 13, 2010

By Carol Hotton and Betsy Strickler

Location: Takoma Park Community Center

Present: Carol Hotton, Melanie Fosnaught, Nicolien van Schouwen , Betsy Strickler, John Hemphill

Meeting opened at approximately 6:45 pm.

(1) The Commission discussed the survey and GIS projects being conducted by the arborist. The arborist has advised the Commission that (a) determining the data points for the survey project would take at least until the end of the summer, and (b) he is still waiting for the GIS to be completed.

(2) The Commission again discussed the interplay between the Tree Ordinance and the ability of residents to install solar panels. The members agreed that further research was appropriate to determine (a) how other jurisdictions with tree ordinances have handled the situation and (b) whether any modifications to the Takoma Park Tree Ordinance would be appropriate. It was noted that interference with the use of property is among the factors set out in the Tree Ordinance for determining whether a tree may be removed from private property. The members therefore agreed that no amendment of the ordinance seemed necessary or appropriate. In connection with this issue:

(a) Melanie agreed to do research to see other jurisdictions had faced similar issues;

(b) Betsy agreed to gather information on how solar cooperatives work, and whether such an arrangement might be feasible in Takoma Park;

(c) Carol agreed to draft an initial position paper for the Commission to consider, with the goal of submitting a recommendation to the City Council.

(3) Commission discussed a complaint by a resident about street trees that had been selected for the right-of-way on her street. Three members briefly discussed the issue and agreed that, as a general matter, allowing residents some input would be desirable, but only if a mechanism could be found that (a) did not unduly complicate the decision-making process, and (b) gave the city arborist the final say.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.