

Minutes of the City of Takoma Park Tree Commission

Mar 10, 2015

Commissioners present: Colleen Cordes, Chair
Mel Fosnaught
Carol Hotton
Gresham Lowe

Non Commissioners: Dan Seligman, father of Cub Scout

1. Dan Seligman presented his idea about having cub scouts knock on people's doors with flyers explaining value of trees and asking whether they would be willing to have scouts plant trees in their yard. Scouts would provide informational flyer and graphic with info on where tree to be planted. If yes, would fill order at American Natives nursery and have scouts plant and water. Looking for other sources for plants: Virginia Native Plant Sales, Earth Sangha. Would offer 3 canopy, 4 understory trees. Doesn't think Arbor Day giveaways provide trees with potential for survival. Cub scouts mainly 7-8, up 10 years old. Large pack—50-60 scouts. Tree planting not a major part of scouting but hope to attract half a dozen or so. Immediate goal: plant 10 trees on private property, fallback, plant on public property. Gresham suggested 3 gallon trees for greater survival [but would this be too heavy for scouts?] Potential source of funding for tree project: 1) cub scouts; 2) Takoma Foundation; 3) City? Dan wants to plant in late April, early May. Advertise during tree giveaway, on listserves. [One thing not discussed—what to plant?] Another cub scout father, Joel Conlon, works as a DC forester and is interested in organizing—can show how and what to plant.
2. Cindy Dyballa and Colleen met with Sara Daines and Daryl Braithwaite re: Environmental educator position. Sara hesitant over including volunteer coordination in this position—not same mix of skills, a lot of work. Committee on Environment (COE) voted to encourage Council to hire Environmental Educator; but failing that, City should hire Energy specialist on 2 year contract focused on Georgetown Prize. Sara and Daryl suggested they meet with Suzanne Ludlow about position before Mar 17 when budget will be submitted. **Action Item:** Colleen will draft Environmental Educator proposal for Suzanne to give to City Council.
3. Sara Daines noted that it is hard to keep volunteers. Suggested using Lifelong Takoma and Americorps as sources of volunteers and to coordinate volunteers on environmental issues. Consider as long-term goal for City position. People come to Daryl to volunteer—hard to know where to put them. There are many retired people in Takoma Park—they represent a large pool of potential volunteers.
4. Setting tree canopy percentage and biodiversity goals. **Action Item:** Carol will research process of setting canopy goals. Will talk to Paul Chrostowski (COE) about his list of recommended trees to plant to increase biodiversity.
5. Erkin Ozberk, City planner, is beginning review of Open Space Planning. Discussed how Tree Commission can be involved in this process. Put on back burner for now.
6. Tree Workshop – dates after Arbor Day (Apr 11). Action Item: Colleen will check with Lorraine Pearsall of Historic Takoma over availability for Apr 18 and Apr 25. Lorraine very enthusiastic about workshop.
7. **Action Item:** Carol will call Todd about tree species to be given out at Arbor Day.
8. **Action Item:** Tree Commissioners will contact Kate Stewart about preserving trees and green space at Takoma Junction.
9. **Action Item:** Carol will draft talking points for meeting with Tim Male. Mar 16 or Mar 23 possible times for meeting.