

## **Minutes of the City of Takoma Park Tree Commission**

September 11, 2018

By Carol Hotton

**Location:** City Council Chamber, Takoma Park Community Center

**Present:** Tina Murray, Chair; Denny May, Vice Chair; Carol Hotton, Secretary; John Barnwell, Bruce Levine, Commissioners; Jeff Brokaw, resident and member of Committee on the Environment (COE)

**Absent:** Jan van Zutphen, Urban Forest Manager (UFM)

Meeting convened at 6:50 pm.

1. Minutes for August 14 meeting were approved.
2. **Discussion of officers' terms.** According to the Tree Commission Bylaws, officers' terms expire at the end of September and rotate to new members, if they choose to take them. It was decided that because Denny May is stepping down at the end of the month, we would maintain current officers until a new Commissioner is appointed.
3. **Tree canopy assessment update.** The City is still awaiting results of tree canopy analysis, and hopes to receive them in two weeks. Status of public presentation uncertain.
4. **Tree Ordinance review by City Council.** Review has been put on agenda for November. In the meantime, Tree Commission and City Council will convene a work session to set a time line and process for review. Commissioners agree that it is appropriate for them to provide input to the Council throughout this process. Suggestion made to restart Joint Working Group on Tree Canopy with COE to provide input to Council.
5. **Dorothy's Woods.** Brief discussion of history of City's acquisition of property. Further discussion postponed until results of auction known.
6. **Discussion of tree protection plan approval process.** Homeowner expressed concern about including Cambistat as part of tree protection plan during July meeting. It was suggested that UFM provide options, such as mycorrhizal application (in this case). This case was considered problematic because the homeowner was apparently not aware of modifications to the tree protection plan and was then presented with an approved plan that could not be appealed. It was suggested that the homeowner should be included in all discussion of the tree protection plan, including any modifications suggested by the arborist, before final approval given to plan
7. Trees with orange paint and ribbons in woods behind Coop/City lot. Concern expressed over whether these trees were slated for removal, but according to UFM, they were marked for inventory.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

After adjournment, Tina and Carol briefly discussed redefining ‘tree canopy’ in the Ordinance with Jeff Brokaw. Will pursue further.