

Minutes of the City of Takoma Park Tree Commission

January 7, 2020

By Carol Hotton

Location: Rose Room, Takoma Park Community Center

Present: John Barnwell, Bruce Levine, Co-Chairs; Carol Hotton, Secretary; Tina Murray, Nancy Cohen, Commissioners; Ken Sigman, Executive Director of Tree Commission and City Attorney; Jan van Zutphen, Urban Forest Manager; Kacy Kostiuk, Ward 3 Council Member; Daryl Braithwaite, Director, Public Works; Jim Woodward, City resident

Meeting convened at 6:55 pm.

1. **Continued discussion of marked up version of revised Chapter 12 for submission to City Council.**
 - A. Discussion of retaining or removing life expectancy as criterion for assessing tree health and replacement. UFM prefers retaining as term is derived from ISA assessment form. TC recommends removing because it is more objective than other replacement criteria. Decision made to strike.
 - B. Discussion of tree removal criteria. Add ‘after consideration of reasonable alternatives to removal’ to (e) and remove reference to ‘potential ameliorating effects of any tree protection plan that has been submitted or approved’ in (f).
 - C. Remove reference to ‘risk posed to people’ from criterion (d).
 - D. From Daryl: City to streamline process by providing online tree forms, and will include information on replacement ratings and criteria for removal.
 - E. 12.08.040. Clarify distinction between invasive and undesirable species, and remove references to specific species such as kudzu etc.. Include undesirables and ‘noxious’ species in Regulations.
 - F. 12.04.080. UFM and TC recommend that same process for tree removal be applied to City trees, minus right of appeal, to assure proper procedures are followed.
 - G. 12.08.040. Include regulation of infested wood in Regulations.
 - H. 12.12.010. Legislative Findings. Remove reference to ‘ecosystem services’ here and in Definitions as term is complex to define and has no legal bearing to the Ordinance. Instead, list tree benefits.
 - I. 12.12.010. Legislative Findings. Modify language referring to ‘diverse native species adaptable to climate change’ because (1) how and what species will adapt to climate change, and (2) not practical to limit potential tree stock to native species. Better to include ‘native and large canopy trees, keeping in mind climate change’, or wording along those lines.

- J. 12.12.030. Tree Impact Assessment. Remove 'removing, relocating, destroying or topping an urban forest tree' from 12.12.030.A.5.
- K. 12.12.030: Request from UFM to include: City Manager will not prepare Tree Impact Assessment.
- L. 12.12.040(C): UFM requested change in wording to "lack of understanding of impacts of construction on trees". Also, requirements should be broadened to include professionals with experience in preparing tree protection plans, not just certified arborists. Paragraph too complex; needs to be clarified.
- M. 12.12.070. Change "same construction activity within five years" to "same construction activity within two years".
- N. 12.12.080.3. Criteria for tree removal. Ken will continue to work on this.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm.