

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

7:00 PM – on Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Meipo Martin, Ward 2; Paul Obrien, Ward 4; Bart Sheard, Ward 3; Xavier Blake Sparrow, Ward 3; Gorky Villa, Ward 2; Marty Frye, Urban Forest Manager (UFM)

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February meeting (Bart Sheard)
2. Public Comments – none.
3. Urban Forest Manager Report (Marty Frye)
 - No updates on Montgomery College development project. The work has not yet been completed.
 - Tree impact assessment and tree permit requests are coming in as weather warms up.
 - UFM will confer with Conservation Montgomery regarding possible Home Tree Care Classes for Takoma Park.
 - Pilot planting effort:
 - Targeted outreach to commercial, institutional property and apartment managers.
 - Planted 40 trees so far.
 - Planning of Arbor Day Celebration underway
 - Related to Tree City designation.
 - As COVID restrictions are lifted, will revert to in-person event again.
 - Initial date original set for April 9, but clashes with spring break. May consider postponing event to April 16 or April 23.
 - Plan on promoting via Takoma Park Newsletter.
 - Will invite various community leaders' presence.
 - Program includes PSA on tree care best practices, community open mic, tree walk.
4. Changes to Tree Commission by-laws (Bart Sheard)
 - The following amendments to the by-laws were passed unanimously.
 - 1)a) “. . . beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the following year.” has been changed to “. . . beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of the following year.”
 - 1)c) “. . . yearly basis among the remaining three commissioners, with terms ending on September 30.” has been changed to “yearly basis, with terms ending on June 30.”
 - 2) “. . . on the second Tuesday of every month,” has been changed to “. . . on the second Wednesday of every month,”

5. Discussion of Commission responsibilities regarding community outreach and education (Meipo Martin)
 - Presentation by Meipo: review educational function of Tree Commission, examples of past outreach and education initiatives, partnership opportunities with non-profits, possible additional educational information to provide to residents, promote tree planting programs by other organizations to benefit Takoma Park residents.
 - Discussion among Tree Commissioners and UFM on merits and ways to try new initiatives.
 - Tree Commissioners agreed to provide more online resources to residents as educational material on trees and tree care.
 - Tree Commission consented to assign Meipo Martin, with support of Marty Frye, to:
 - work on a list of tree-related resources to submit to City for consideration to put on City website.
 - contact Takoma Park Newsletter to find out the process of using the Newsletter to promote events like Arbor Day or other future Tree Commission initiatives.

6. Consultation with City Attorney postponed due to Attorney's sickness.

ADJOURN: approximately 8:10 PM