

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

7:00 PM – on Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Meipo Martin, Ward 2; Paul Obrien, Ward 4; Bart Sheard, Ward 3; Xavier Blake Sparrow, Ward 3; James Woodworth, Ward 2; Marty Frye, Urban Forest Manager (UFM).

ABSENT: Gorky Villa, Ward 2

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April meeting (Jim Woodworth)
2. Public Comments – none.
3. Urban Forest Manager Report (Marty Frye)
 - No updates on pending appeals
 - Montgomery College continues to be an active construction site.
 - Ethan Allen is inactive, despite setting up tree protection. Marty may need to check in on this project to see if it will resume before the expiration of the permit.
 - Tree Planting:
 - Ongoing despite a minor contractor delay
 - 87 ROW plantings
 - ◆ 2 ROW rejections (trees re-assigned to other locations)
 - ◆ Washington Adventist University rejected the planting proposals for its ROW locations.
 - 4 private properties receiving ~39 trees
 - Drafting an RFP to engage a third party (NGO) for private property planting program, to include:
 - ◆ a site consultation for property owner
 - ◆ hand-holding to understand the value of shade trees
 - ◆ draft to be reviewed by Daryll (and Council?)
 - Arbor Day tree walk occurred for ~2 hours on 4/23
 - Went really well
 - Attendance included ~20, including commissioner Paul Obrien.
 - 3 groups were represented:
 - ◆ CCAN, Jesse Buff - vine removal
 - ◆ Friends of Native Trees in Takoma
 - ◆ A new advocacy group around food forests; seeking a public private partnership with a private property owner (e.g. the Adventist college)
 - Intern on-boarding in 2 weeks

- Marty excited for help
 - Projects to include tree inventory, website content development
4. Discussion of opportunities for volunteering (Meipo Martin)
- Could Marty envision a way to make use of Takoma Park Horticultural Club?
 - A number of Master Gardeners who would love to engage or serve in some useful capacity.
 - Could they be used in tree survey/inventory project?
 - Could they be used to adopt and maintain public rain gardens?
 - Conservation Montgomery (Caren Madsen) confirms that tree care classes are offered at a rate of \$20/participant (actual costs are approximately \$150/hr for 3 hours (1 hour prep+travel, 2 hour class) for \$450/class)
 - Regarding website content
 - Meipo will take a pass @ suggested edits
 - Share ideas with Marty; review with TC at a next/future meeting
5. Discuss of Office Positions, Durations.
- Bart (chair) and Jim (vice-chair, secretary) are officially in their positions thru June.
 - Is there interest in anyone taking on a new role?
 - At minimum, Jim should relinquish one position
 - Commissioners, please mull this over before next meeting
6. Tree Commission Website
- In need of updates and edits, and perhaps reorganization
 - Meipo shared her initial observations
 - Meipo to share her document review with Commissioners via email
 - Send her via email your edits, recommendations, etc. to incorporate for discussion.
 - Recommendations will be compiled to present to Jessie

ADJOURN: 8:05PM