

# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

## TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

7:00 PM – on Zoom

### MEETING MINUTES

**ATTENDEES:** Meipo Martin, Ward 2; Jim Woodworth, Ward 2; Long Do, Ward 3; Paul Obrien, Ward 4; X. Blake Sparrow, Ward 2; Marty Frye, Urban Forest Manager

Not Present: Gorky Villa, Ward 2;

1. 7:06 PM meeting started.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May meeting (Jim Woodworth)
  - Approved
  - Discussion affirming consensus to circulate minutes twice, draft of minutes ASAP following meeting while fresh in minds (e.g. w/in 24 hours), and helpful to circulate again along with meeting agenda 1-2 weeks prior to upcoming meeting.
3. Public Comments – Tina Murray , [tina.murray@outlook.com](mailto:tina.murray@outlook.com)
  - Former tree commissioner
  - Had two questions for UFM:
    - i. Status/update of UVM study of remote sensing analysis of tree canopy coverage
    - ii. Status of 102 Geneva Avenue tree removal permit and replanting requirements
4. Urban Forest Manager report (Marty Frye)
  - UVM LIDAR canopy analysis
    - Marty has updated the website so that both the 2019 and 2022 assessments are now available:
      - <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/urban-forestry/>
  - 102 Geneva Ave tree removal permit
    - Property changed hands multiple times
    - TPP never issued
    - Tree removal permit issued
    - Pay in lieu or planting
  - Annual report to City Council
    - UFM annual report materials posted here:  
[https://takomaparkmd.gov/meeting\\_agendas/city-council-meeting-agenda-wednesday-july-26-2023/](https://takomaparkmd.gov/meeting_agendas/city-council-meeting-agenda-wednesday-july-26-2023/)
    - Especially important as way to formally inform new council members
    - Better cycle of reporting in July after end of fiscal year, numbers are finalized

- Cleaner process to provide complete picture of program
- Recent focus on emergency response
  - Literally a whirlwind of tree risk management over past 2 weeks
  - Storm on July 29/30/31(?) resulted in 10-12 police reports of tree damage in public space
  - Coordinating with PEPCO that evening immediately following storm event
  - Hazardous tree removals pending
  - 2 trees destabilized due to most recent Aug 7 storm event including a tulip poplar and bradford pear
- Library Renovation Project
  - Formerly approved by County
  - MLK memorial willow oak will be removed despite considering all reasonable alternatives
    - WSSC easement/ROW for pipework
    - Storm water management features
    - Currently staging construction materials and causing public inquiries
    - Commitment to salvage and mill wood to be utilized in furniture as part of library project.
- Building permit process:
- Marty has been trouble-shooting periodic conflicts that arise between tree protection plans, stormwater management plans (also reviewed and permitted by TP DPW), and drainage plans (reviewed and permitted by County);
  - SWM plans are required by TP DPW for disturbances  $\geq 5,000$  square feet.
  - Drainage plans are required by County for increased in building impervious surfaces of structures  $\geq 400$  square feet (to prevent nuisance flooding across property lines);
  - Permits in the ROW are also required by TP DPW (e.g. for driveway aprons, dumpster location, etc.).
  - County does not “see” TP permits
  - Dry-wells are a common practice to satisfy SWM plans and/or drainage plans
    - Located near roof downspouts
    - Typically 6x6 or 9x9 vaults
    - Often located in tree protection root zones
  - Marty has developed relationship with county department of permit services reviewer
    - Discovery: if TP allows for property owner to drain into the ROW, then the county can approve a modified drainage plan.
  - Follow-up questions by Meipo, Paul and Jim regarding process, how it works, how the onus is on:
    - Owner requests “municipality letter” which informs of potential city requirements of a project
    - Owner needs to abide by tree protection plan v. drainage plan
    - Projects that span multiple years (and often outlive terms of UFM and/or tree commissioners)
    - New web-based permitting system dashboard helps with tracking of all open permits and replacement planting requirements.
  - Status of Ethan Allen site:
    - 1 of 3 houses has been built
    - Planting for each lot required individually with “sell as they go” approach
    - TPPs can be extended as long as there is ongoing construction

5. Commission business

- Selection of vice chair: Long Do volunteered, and all commissioners present voted in favor of.
- Selection of secretary: Paul Obrien volunteered, and all commissioners present voted in favor of.
- The City Council reappointed Blake Sparrow to the Tree Commission. There were no new applicants for appointment. Interested residents can continue to apply throughout the fall. The next opportunity for City Council appointments will be in January.
- Next meeting November 8<sup>th</sup>

ADJOURN: 7:52 PM