

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

7:00 PM – on Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Meipo Martin, Ward 2; Jim Woodworth, Ward 2; Long Do, Ward 3; Bart Sheard, Ward 3; Paul Obrien, Ward 4; Marty Frye, Urban Forest Manager

Not Present: Gorky Villa, Ward 2; X. Blake Sparrow, Ward 2;

1. 7:05 PM meeting started.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February meeting (Bart Sheard)
 - Approved
 - Discussion of preferred timing of minutes circulation; consensus was to circulate twice, draft of minutes ASAP following meeting while fresh in minds, and helpful to circulate again along with meeting agenda prior to upcoming meeting.
3. Public Comments – none.
4. Urban Forest Manager report (Marty Frye)
 - Budget process:
 - Proposal to cut Tree Takoma planting program; did NOT pass
 - Decision to match/retain current level of funding (~\$73k in FY23)
 - Tree Fund funds generated through permit removal process
 - ~\$200k currently in Fund
 - Annually generates \$40-\$90k annually
 - Planning to spend \$97 in FY24
 - Expecting interest in planting was high initially and is likely to wane in future
 - Council allocated ~\$20k from Tree Fund towards UFM salary
 - Effort to reduce tax increase from \$0.03/X to \$0.012/X
 - UFM is presenting to Council in July for FY23 program annual report
 - Tree planting
 - 280 trees planted thru FY23;
 - Wrapped up in April 20th
 - Other items:
 - Minor update to approved species list to add species – TK
 - Minor updates to tree protection plan to add often overlooked elements including locations of drywells and downspout connections
 - 2 Funding opportunities on horizon:
 - Purple Line tree planting funds (MD-DNR & MD SHWA)

- \$5k grants, may be eligible for multiple grants
 - Casey Trees is pursuing Federal IRA urban forestry grant
 - Equity area – no match
 - Other areas - 50% match to Tree Takoma
 - October awards forthcoming
- 5. Commission business
 - Bart circulated proposed revisions to by-law for review
 - Addresses dates for officer terms, meeting schedule (quarterly), attendance – allowed 1 of 4 missed meetings allowance
 - approved 4 ayes, 0 Nays
 - Next meeting August 9th
 - Jesse and Marty to follow-up with each commissioner whose term may be expiring soon to confirm reappointment process
 - Bart's and Blake's terms expire in June 2023.
 - Jim moves from vice-chair (and secretary) to chair

ADJOURN: approximately 7:36 PM