

# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

## TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, November 8, 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

1. 7:04 PM meeting started.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2023 (Jim Woodworth)
  - Approved without correction
3. Public Comments – none
4. Urban Forest Manager report (Marty Frye)
  - The city is testing new software (Open Gov) which should make it easier to track work orders, tree inventories, inspections and other data.
  - Library Project. The city was required to develop a floodplain control plan which slowed the project. The pending MLK memorial tree removal was reviewed by the City Council. The plan is for logs from the removed Willow Oak to be milled by a private sawmill and hopefully used to construct some type of furniture for the new library.
  - Marty Frye testified recently in a tree violation case that went to trial.  
The case concerned the building of a sidewalk and retaining wall without proper tree protection and removal permits. Jim Woodworth questioned why the case did not first come before the Tree Commission. Marty explained that the actions were a clear violation of the city code, so citations were in order.
  - Federal grant for tree planting. No tree plantings are scheduled for this autumn. Casey trees is expecting to receive a grant allocation in January for tree planting:
    - to cover half the cost of trees planted anywhere.
    - to cover the full cost in selected urban target areas.
  - Ethan Allen site work is ongoing. Some trees have been planted and the permit will be extended until project completion.

5. Commission business

- Prior to the official start of the meeting, Meipo Martin asked if debris from Black Walnut trees are acceptable for the city's annual leaf collection. Marty Frye thought that the volume from Black Walnut trees would not pose a significant problem when mixed with the rest of the leaf mulch.
- Jim Woodworth announced that Gorky Villa has resigned from the Tree Commission. Several members expressed their hopes that the city will be recruiting new members for the Commission.
- Tree Commission webpage to be updated to reflect membership changes.
- Next meeting February 14, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Minutes submitted by Paul OBrien, secretary