

TREE ORDINANCE, CANOPY, & OUTREACH

Takoma Park City Council

Fall 2019

Overview

- Tree Ordinance – Tree Canopy – Outreach & Education
- Three work sessions: Oct. 16, 23, 30
 - Different topics discussed in each session
- Nov. 13 work session (tentative)
- January 2020 work session (tentative)
- Vote in February 2020 (tentative)

October Work Session Topics

- Work Session 1:
 - Clearer & Faster Process and Information
 - Tree Impact Assessment
 - Tree Protection Plan
 - Appeals
- Work Session 2:
 - Removal of Trees and Hazardous Trees
 - Tree Canopy Goals
 - Replanting Requirements & Tree Rating Chart
- Work Session 3:
 - Pre-planting Programs & Incentives
 - Urban Forest Manager Role, Education & Outreach
 - Fees & Funding
 - Miscellaneous

WORK SESSION 1

October 16, 2019

Discussion Items: Work Session #1

- Clearer & Faster Process and Information
- Tree Impact Assessment
- Tree Protection Plan
- Appeals

Clearer & Faster Process

- Some adjustments already being made by city staff
- Consider two applicant tracks—for one tree, and for multiple trees?
- Adjust 15-day waiting period?
 - Reduce to 7 days in all cases?
 - Or adjust only if all neighbors agree in writing?
- Add time frame for City response to applicants?

Tree Impact Assessment (12.12.030)

- What triggers an assessment?
 - Digging depth of 6 inches instead of current 3 inches?
 - Activity on 10% or more of critical root zone (no % now)?
 - For an activity within critical root zone, not within 50 feet of, tree
 - Define “significant” portion – as 10% or more of roots that may be destroyed
- Critical root zone: smaller root zone? More clear definition?
- Bypass Tree Impact Assessment and simply require Tree Protection Plan in cases where it's clear a Tree Protection Plan will be required?
- Previously discussed: consider branch trimming of 10% not 5%

Tree Protection Plan (12.12.040-080)

- Preparation of Tree Protection Plan:
 - Allow residents to prepare their own TPP in some cases
 - Allow UFM to require independent evaluation for complex plans? (12.04.110)
- Balance cost and delay with required tree protection measures?
- How to address impact on trees of utility and other emergency work?
- Authorize the City Attorney (with UFM and Tree Commission) to rewrite criteria for tree permit decisions to clarify/simplify (12.12.120)?
- Add safety, or climate change, to criteria for permit decisions?

Appeals (12.12.110)

- When should appeals be allowed, and why?
- Appeals of neighbors for a Tree Protection Plan that's been granted (eliminate?)
- Appeals related to a tree-removal permit for trees in declining health (eliminate? reduce to affected property owners only?)
- Appeals related to granting or denial of a tree removal waiver