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
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