

Tree Commission Meeting
June 6, 2022
7:30-9:00PM

Attendees:

Meeting Facilitator: Jackie Sabath

Meeting Notes: MaryLee Haughwout

Other Tree Commissioners: Barry Stahl, Lester Scheuermann

Minutes:

1. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting.
 - a. Meeting minutes approved.
2. Tree Inventory software and next steps (Lester)
 - a. Lester and Rocio had a zoom meeting with Tig Tillinger of Forest Matrix, the developer of Accessible Urban Tree Inventory, AUTI. Tig provided the links for downloading the software and tutorials. AUTI is designed to be used on an iPad with cellular connection. The AUTI software and FileMaker for iPad are free and the city's commitment is \$50/month for cloud storage fees, thus enabling us to use more than one device.. While we can use a computer for analyzing data, the FileMaker software necessary will cost \$500 from a third party vendor. Lester started using AUTI to enter the Levee Project trees then will enter park and city trees.
3. Downtown projects and trees
 - a. 3300 blocks Rhode Island Ave & Perry Street (Luke)
 - i. Luke described some upcoming projects and their relevancy to the Tree Commission.
 - b. 34th Street (Rocio)
 - i. Project to redo sidewalks and street. Both sides will include "tree grates". An estimate of 40 trees (20 on each side). Timing is fall 2022. Rocio will share proposal with the Tree Commission. Follow up action for Rocio & Tree Commission is to find date/time to meet with the contractor to provide input into trees.
4. Levee planting trees replacements (MaryLee)
 - a. Dead trees - several were dead upon planting because they never leafed out. Redbuds in particular. Need regular watering. County is supposed to maintain -

including water. Rocio said it is falling upon the city. MaryLee responded that that isn't what was agreed to and should review the plans and push back. Tree Commission to start noting dead trees. Only 1 year warranty from plant acceptance.

5. Next steps with ARPA funding for climate smart trees (MaryLee)
 - a. ARPA money is available. Need to put out a RFP for the climate resilient trees. Council agreed to \$20,000 for trees, help mitigate stormwater. Funding needs to be obligated by December 2024.
 - i. MaryLee to draft RFP
6. Call for new Tree Commissioners (MaryLee)
 - a. Tree Commission can have up to 7 people. Currently at 5 with the departure of Zachary. MaryLee asked about process to solicit interest. Post to various platforms and get the city to help spread the word. MaryLee will put a call out for 1-2 new Commissioners.
7. Message Articles
 - a. Jackie discussed potential meeting topics. Lester volunteered to write a piece on the AUTI software. It was suggested there be a short article about the ARPA tree funding, as well as spreading the word about the Commission vacancies.
8. Next meeting dates
 - a. MaryLee will send out doodle poll. If get new members, open to search for optimal time and regular date frequency.

ACTION ITEMS

1. NEW: Rocio and Tree Commission set up a date/time to meet with 34th Street contractors.
2. NEW: MaryLee to draft RFP for climate resilient trees.
3. NEW: MaryLee to send out notice about Tree Commission vacancies
4. MaryLee will follow up with Carole Barth with PG County on tree canopy analysis (ongoing, non-responsive).
5. MaryLee will look into heritage/exceptional tree language in neighboring jurisdictions.
6. Brad & Zachary: Come up with a proposal to reach out to tree companies to ensure they are educated on our tree ordinance requirements. We should also investigate other models of putting responsibility on the tree care provider for violating the ordinance. Zachary can share examples of other municipalities that specifically place liability on tree companies. But starting with outreach might be the best first step.

