

Tree Commission Meeting

September 13, 2022

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Attendees: MaryLee Haughwout, Jackie Sabath, Lester Scheuermann, Barry Stahl, Luke Chesek, Gladys Sanchez, Rosalind Redrick, Karen Simmons

Facilitator: MaryLee

Minutes: Lester

Prior to the agenda members to introduce themselves, their role/interest in attending as well as a favorite tree. MaryLee welcomed the residents attending, Rosalind and Karen, to share any interest or concerns they would like to see addressed. Both expressed an interest in the trees of the city, especially those on 33rd St. where they live and concerns about vines that affect them.

Agenda:

1. The minutes from the June 6, 2022 meeting were approved without changes after Lester made a motion to do so and both Jackie and Barry seconded the motion.
2. Luke reminded everyone that the city is having a virtual meeting this Monday at 6:30 to discuss the redesign of sidewalks in the city. The plan is to make the sidewalks more pedestrian friendly and expanding treeboxes so more trees can be planted. The 34th Street project is one of these that will also address issues such as adding bike lanes to the streets. He asked those present to let him know if there are any problems with the redesign.
3. MaryLee addressed the issue of the draft RFP for climate resilient trees for which \$20,000 had been approved in 2021. She previously sent this to the TC members for consideration and requested feedback. Barry expressed appreciation for her hard work on this and indicated that it should proceed with no changes. Both Lester and Jackie concurred. MaryLee indicated that it would be ideal to get the RFP out for bids this Fall. Rosalind asked if residents would have a say about the trees planted because she was

- concerned that the debris from some trees adversely affects cars. Barry assured her that he does work with the residents to select trees that are acceptable to them and appropriate for the treebox.
4. MaryLee indicated that she, Rocio and Lester met with Pepco representatives to go over the process of Pepco tree removals and replacements. Pepco has identified 12 trees for removal, 9 of which are public trees and 3 on private property. The homeowners of the latter have been contacted and Gladys reported that public notices were posted on the trees to be removed. Pepco will give 12 replacement trees for planting in the city. If any of the 3 homeowners refuse a replacement tree it will be added to the public plantings.
 5. Lester gave an update on the implementation of AUTI. He began AUTI by entering 266 trees from the Levee Tree project and sent a Dropbox of those that either died or were dying to Rocio and MaryLee. He then entered 283 park trees before starting with city street trees. To date 2338 trees were entered, 2039 of these are city, primarily treebox, trees, accounting for over 90% of city trees. He indicated that 70.9% of the city's trees are native, 28.8% are naturalized and 0.3% are invasive. A number of tree problems have been identified, so far, and will be addressed in more detailed when the project is completed later this month. He did request the help of other TC members in conducting a random study of about 100 trees to verify the reliability of the data. Both Jackie and Barry indicated they were able to help.
 6. MaryLee addressed the issue of City projects since Rocio could not make the meeting. Flex pavement is being used in areas with mature trees to allow for moisture to reach the roots and the pavement will also flex with root growth. Gladys indicated that steps will be taken to protect city trees during the sidewalk replacement project. No new information was available concerning medians on the Arundel Green Street project but Gladys indicated that parking was being shifted to the south side of the street.
 7. The Levee Tree project replacement of dead/dying trees continues to be an issue. MaryLee stated that the language of the agreement may indicate a

- one year deadline from the initial planting. It is essential that we follow up on this before that time.
8. MaryLee reported on the recent Riverdale Tree Summit where she gave a presentation as the representative from an established neighboring Tree Commission. Dr. Richard Olsen, the Dir. Of the National Arboretum, provided an educational keynote speech on the future of Urban Forestry. MaryLee invited Jackie and Lester, who attended as observers, to share their perspectives. All agreed that it was enlightening and validating for the progressive approach that our city has taken.
 9. Jackie asked the TC members for ideas for future Message articles. Although the issue of vines has been covered in the past, some suggested that it may be time to revisit it. Barry suggested the importance of watering new trees in the Fall. Lester offered the topic of dealing with invasive trees. Barry also indicated that we should inform residents of a pruning workshop in the Fall.
 10. Next meeting date: November 1, 2022.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. MaryLee follow up with Carole Barth of PG County DOE on tree canopy analysis.
2. MaryLee look into heritage/exceptional tree language in neighboring jurisdictions
3. New street trees need to be added to the inventory. **DONE, Lester to finish AUTI by the end of the month.**
4. Rocio: Send to the TC the revised list of tree species that the city has been providing with Tree Permits. TC to review and comment to ensure native canopy trees are being used.
5. Brad will finalize Exceptional Tree Nomination and then will send it to our city clerk to get it on the next city council meeting agenda. **PENDING.**
6. Brad: 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 providers for violating the ordinance.