

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2023
7:30-9:00 pm on Zoom

Meeting Facilitator: Lester Scheuermann

Meeting Notes: Jackie Sabath

Additional attendees: Judy Alba, Andy Doyle, MaryLee Haughwout, Gladys Sanchez

Guests: Jonathan Carney, Casey Trees Urban Forester, Brooke Kidd, Director Joe's Movement Emporium

Action Items highlighted in **Bold**

1. Introductions and welcome of Jonathan Carney and Brooke Kidd
2. Minutes approved as written from March 9, 2023 meeting
3. Casey Trees, Climate Resilient Tree Planting Project – MaryLee and Jonathan
 - a. MaryLee gave background: 2021 City Council authorized \$20,000 toward climate resilient project; Casey Trees won proposal.
 - b. Parameters/goals of project
 - 1) Jan 1, 2023-Dec 31, 2024 timeline
 - 2) Contractor supply and plant 60 appropriate trees for current and future climate conditions
 - 3) Diversify species
 - 4) Increase tree canopy with larger trees (30+feet)
 - 5) Increase species for under electrical wires: Jonathan noted Chokecherry, flowering cherry (3 kinds), Hornbeam, Hop-hornbeam
 - 6) Trees adaptable to urban conditions
 - 7) Contractor would do consultation with private residents and work with TC on tree boxes, parks, schools
 - c. Input from Jonathan
 - 1) Planning and consultation happens in summer and winter; planting happens Sep-Dec and Mar-May; have plenty of time to plant 60 trees
 - 2) Guidelines on private property
 - a) 10' away from house foundation
 - b) 5' away from retaining wall or sidewalk
 - c) 10' away from other trees
 - d) Example from Takoma Park – they offer a 1:1 ratio of understory and canopy trees
 - e) Plant primarily natives
 - f) Right tree in the right place
 - g) For public tree boxes - must be ready to plant, ie no stumps. Casey contacts utilities.
 - h) Jonathan available for consultation with residents and TC
 - 3) Next steps/ACTION items
 - a) **Jonathan will send TC a palate to look over**

- b) **TC focus on OUTREACH:** getting word out to private residents, then if we have left over trees, determine where to plant on public property; **need more clarifying how to do this and who is doing what**
 - c) **Judy and Jackie will go door to door, focus on houses by Nature Center**
 - d) **Jackie will contact a few churches**
 - e) **Lester help with researching where canopy trees are needed**

- 4. Joe's Movement Emporium Tree Team – Brooke Kidd
 - a. She hopes to get a repeat grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust's 5 Million Trees for MD.].
 - b. Young people come mostly from Joe's CreativeWorks training program and get additional training through Kathy and Barry's Audubon Habitat Advisors program.
 - c. Have done great work near Dueling Creek and around Beaver Creek in Cheverly.
 - d. Main task is removal of invasive vines this summer – will begin soon.
 - e. Areas TC recommended in need of vine removal on trees MNCPPC area around PG Pool – will take time for Brooke to get approval
 - 1) Thomas Stone Elementary – easier to get approval
 - 2) Otis and 35th Streets – city property?
 - 3) Trees on residents' property throughout the city; Brooke write up a process, contact residents, opportunity for education, team teaches residents how to remove vines
 - 4) Idea of additional education around invasives, ie Lesser Celandine, very bad invasive
 - f. Brooke mentioned other organizations offering free tree planting: Scenic Prince Georges, a chapter of Scenic America. Potential for Joe's getting funding through them
 - g. **Action items: Follow up with Brooke in coming months on private resident vine removal and how the Tree Commission can help get the word out.**

- 5. Watering Plans for new trees - MaryLee
 - a. Dry spring season, drought, visible stress on some trees
 - b. Sort out plans with DPW for watering.
 - 1) Pepco trees in Richardson Park are being watered by DPW crew
 - 2) County trees (260 + trees plus 50 replacement) – **MaryLee will continue to contact contractor/contact person about watering;** there hasn't been clear information about how they determine soil moisture and when to water.
 - 3) **Jackie will follow up with DPW/Gladys about watering at Rogers Park and will stay in touch with Steve McKinley Ward and Gabe Popkin who have taken initiative to water the trees.** If DPW cannot water, we will need to recruit a few people. It's a substantial job which includes getting water meter and wrench from Community Garden, attaching meter and hose to fire hydrant, dragging hose through resident's yard into park, watering and reversing the process.
 - 4) Lester wondered about **purchasing a cistern** and setting it up on site. **MaryLee will talk to her husband about that.**

- 6. County Tree Program follow up - MaryLee – Mary Abe reported on program at May 2023 City Council meeting.

- a. MaryLee liked the possibility of using this program to cut into concrete to widen tree boxes in some areas, replacing concrete with permeable pavement.
 - b. MaryLee and Lester liked the idea of removing Bradford Pears and replanting with native. Two Bradford Pears on Newton are in bad shape; there may be more to consider.
 - c. MaryLee concerned about two programs (Casey and County) being communicated to residents at the same time. Confusing. Andy felt the county program was not geared well to supporting residents planting.
 - d. **MaryLee will procure a written synopsis from Mary Abe for clarification on the nature of the program.**
 - e. **Lester will create AUTI report on poor condition Bradford Pears.**
7. AUTI implementation – Lester
- a. Lester reported it is up and running on city website. Pink helpful with that.
 - b. Rocio is reviewing contract with Tig re Ipad and software needed. **Lester will follow up on that.**
8. Annual Tree Box Review – Lester
- a. **TC will begin walking the neighborhood May 1-Sep 30 to observe condition of the city trees;** will take time to iron out the kinks in our process.
 - b. Had technical issues with screen share to review **mapping process**, so **Lester will send out instructions.** Lester emailed us guidelines for observing the trees, which looked good.
 - c. **We will report dangerous tree issues to DPW. MaryLee will set up google drive excel spread sheet for us to log issues that are important, but of lesser urgency.** Don't want to overload DPW/code enforcement with too many problems.
 - d. Lester would also like to get trees that are on school property into AUTI. He emailed sample to letter to principals. **MaryLee and Lester will follow up on this.**
9. Updates on City-related projects – Gladys
- a. No sidewalk improvements in the works
 - b. Working on ID-ing removals and following up on 10 + complaints
 - c. **Lester will generate list of dead trees for city.**
 - d. Will call Matt in for assessing when needed.
10. Communications -Jackie
- a. **Jackie will get deadline for next Message. MaryLee will do short Code Enforcement reminder, and Judy will write a short piece about tree planting in Rogers Park with a photo.**
11. **Next meeting date: July 27, 7:30-9:00.** Jackie will facilitate. Volunteer needed to take notes.