

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023
7:30-9:00 PM

Meeting Facilitator: Andy Doyle

Notes: MaryLee

Agenda:

1. Introductions
 - a. Attendees: Judy Alba, MaryLee Haughwout, Andy Doyle, Jackie Sabath, Lester Scheuermann, Luke Chesek, Jonathan Carney
2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Minutes from July meeting are approved and will be posted to the city website
3. Climate Resilient Tree Planting Update - Jonathan/Casey Trees
 - a. City sent out a push to solicit requests for public and private trees throughout the city on August 29. To date, 65 individual requests have been collected. Many requests are for more than 1 tree.
 - b. Under Casey Tree contract, 50 trees are available, though Jonathan thinks they can make up to 60 work. Jonathan has started to set up meetings with all the residential/private property requests within their system. The plan is to start consultation soon and plan to plant trees late winter, early spring 2024.
 - c. **ACTION:** MaryLee noted additional requests have come in since the last communication and she will share those with Jonathan over email. The Tree Commission is reviewing public street tree requests and will make recommendations and work with residents. MaryLee noted considerations will be: overhead wires, size of the tree box, utility conflicts and safety visibility, e.g. stop signs, intersections, etc.
 - d. **ACTION:** Jonathan will share the updated tree palate list for 2024.
 - e. Anticipate only 1 tree per property request due to the limits of the contract and demand.
4. AUTI: Update status, Implementation coordination - Lester (15 min)
 - a. Lester walked through some slides to review the objective of the AUTI and the percent of the city completed to date. About 50% is complete and there is

probably a few more weeks where we can get this done because the leaves will be on the trees. Lester invited TC to note observations. Observations included:

- i. Diameter changes, address confirmation, missing or added trees, tree condition
 - ii. Jackie wondered about how we notated empty tree boxes within AUTI. Not a clear way to do it. Recommend a supplementary excel spreadsheet to populate empty tree boxes. **ACTION:** MaryLee will create a spreadsheet for folks to add to.
 - iii. Jackie said she is getting to know the trees and would like to prune the same areas she walks this winter.
- b. **ACTION:** Tree Commissioners continue to do walks and communicate areas to avoid overlap.
5. CMBS: Proposed experiment for a short term solution - Lester
- a. Background, crepe myrtle bark scale is here and spreading. Lester said he witnessed a CMBS infested tree that was leveled and then grew back without the bark scale. Aligns with Clemson University recommendation. Lester is suggesting we try a few trees on Rhode Island Ave and see what happens.
 - b. Judy shared her experience on her private property trees. She pruned the stems back and scrubbed it down with soapy water. Both trees are healthy looking. Grew new branches. Judy got rid of areas with extensive infestation. Left the trunk.
 - c. MaryLee recommends a few approaches to compare and contrast. She suggested a few trees where we cut back, a few of similar infestation where we scrub and a few trees of similar infestation where we do nothing. Observe over time.
 - d. Lester will take this on.
6. Updates on tree maintenance schedule
- a. City public works not present. MaryLee noted the issue of safety for several locations. Been discussing tree maintenance since June and nothing has been done. Lots of issues on communication, prioritization, and the city not using AUTI. Commissioners discussed the need for a process and the need for a training to pull info from AUTI to inform tree maintenance needs.
 - b. **ACTION:** Luke will email relevant folks to set up a meeting to discuss.
 - c. **ACTION:** MaryLee will develop an outline as a starting point for discussion.

7. Communications - Jackie (10 min)
 - a. For the winter edition of the Message there was interest in doing a story about vine removal and tree pruning.
 - b. The September issue didn't happen. Will still run the Free Tree article with no deadline.
 - c. Spurred a discussion about Joe's tree team and their capacity to help with vine removal. They have funding and training to do. **ACTION:** MaryLee will follow up with Brooke to see where things stand.
8. County Tree Opportunity: Follow up from Mary Abe presentation - Luke
 - a. Potential overflow from Casey Tree requests.
 - b. Spurred discussion about bartlett pears and removal and replacement
 - c. Andy mentioned Fire House, on county land. Border Bunker Hill Road
 - i. Maybe a location, for action.
 - d. Last correspondence from Mary noted she was following up with Public Works
9. Potential to target properties designated as vacant by Code for tree planting - Luke
 - a. Several locations that are vacant and have space for trees. No maintenance because no one could water but maybe people to help.
 - b. Do we know how far from the curb there is an easement? Not sure. Need to get a list together of locations to send to city manager.
 - c. **ACTION:** Luke will email code for the vacant tree list
 - d. Commissioners are supportive of this idea.
10. Next meeting date - November 30, 7:30 PM