

Tree Commission Meeting  
January 13, 2025  
7:30-9:00 pm

Attendees: Judy Alba, Andy Doyle, MaryLee Haughwout, Jackie Sabath, Lester Scheuermann, Barry Stahl, Victor Rivas, Holly & Sean McBride (residents)

Facilitator: Lester Scheuermann

Minutes: Jackie Sabath

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**Action items in bold**

1. Introductions of all attending.
2. Minutes of November 4, 2024 meeting approved with no changes.
3. Acting co-chairs, Lester Scheuermann and Jackie Sabath resigned their temporary chair position. MaryLee Haughwout was nominated and unanimously voted in as the chair.
4. Winter pruning and tree removal updates. Tree Commissioners have begun pruning and will continue through March to cover the city trees. Victor reported that DPW coordinated pruning will begin soon for larger trees and that notices for tree removals will be posted this week, and arrangements made with Bartlett to do the work. **Victor and Rocio will review the final list that TC provided, checking that addresses are correct and that we are all on the same page regarding which trees should be removed. Victor will email TC to confirm.** Resident, Holly McBride ask for confirmation that the tree in front of her house on 29<sup>th</sup> St. would be removed. **Victor was sure that it was on the list and will confirm.**
5. Water truck repair is on the DPW's to do list. The nozzle on the trailer needs to be replaced to regulate the flow. MaryLee noted the importance of repairing because the alternative watering methods are time consuming and labor intensive for the crew. Victor is committed to getting it fixed and appreciates TC communicating to the city manager and Rocio on the importance of this repair. **MaryLee will follow up with communication to Rocio and city manager about the importance of getting this done in time for hot weather. The TC unanimously approved time and resources to repair the water truck.**

Andy checked with Victor to review the watering schedule. Last year it was Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lester proposed we put gator bags on all the smaller city trees and will make list of 2023-2024 plantings. MaryLee suggested we check with and residents who are caring for a tree box tree to see if they want one. She also suggested we could repurpose some of the gator bags no longer needed on the larger levee trees planted in 2021-2022. **Tree Commission all agreed that gator bags on young trees increased survival rate and proposed money be allocated to buy additional bags. Lester and MaryLee will determine the number of bags needed. Andy agreed to draft a communication to the**

**city manager and Rocio regarding this and will send it to MaryLee. When the number is determined, Victor will purchase.**

6. Green Works plantings. Barry contacted Will Sanders, project manager for Green Works, and Will sent report showing 16 trees were planted in tree boxes – 12 in Kaywood Apartments and 4 around the city. Green Works will provide watering for 2 years. Lester emphasized the importance of planting vendors notifying the TC so we can have input into the right tree in the right place. He noticed a Tulip Poplar tree planted in a small tree box. Judy said a Southern Magnolia is planted near her house in an inappropriate place (previous planting years ago). These examples raised the question of removal of trees planted in places that will not enable them to thrive. **Action Item: MaryLee will create list of trees that are dead or small enough to be removed before they become problematic for DPW. Lester and Barry will review the Greenworks plantings and create a list of any trees that need to be transplanted to a suitable location.**
7. Casey Trees 2024 tree planting contract completed on October 31. MaryLee reported that all the trees look great. Good coordination between residents and arborist. Maintenance was not a part of the contract; all trees were adopted by residents, and TC will follow up with notices to water in the dry spells. MaryLee noted that the Green Works and Casey Trees plantings are really good news for the city. We have an abundance of new trees and we should find ways to showcase these projects to residents. Andy recommended that as we move into the future with planting contracts, we should try to get maintenance as part of the contract. Chesapeake Bay Trust is a good place to tap for funding.
8. Door hanger project. **Action item: MaryLee will circle back with Gabe and Mr. Kamali to get the needed go ahead.**
9. Arundel Road and Newton Street projects. The project manager of Arundel Rd., Mr. Yami, agreed to 3 requests that TC made: 1) plant during mid-late fall through early-mid spring, avoiding the hot weather; 2) city be notified in advance of the plantings; 3) maintenance of the trees provided. They also adopted TC's recommendations for diverse species in the rain garden design.

On Newton St project, Rocio agreed to TC's 4 requests: 1) alert TC of start date; city is currently are getting bids; 2) identify removal trees; 3) notify when notices are posted and; 4) communicate status of tree protection codes from city's consulting arborist

10. Next Message will have Gabe's article. Then, **for the following Message MaryLee will work on a piece show casing the accomplishments of the 2024 Green Works and Casey Trees plantings throughout the city. Jackie will confirm due date.**
11. City Updates. No additional items.
12. MaryLee raised budget question. We missed deadline to submit. We think \$85,000 was in last year's budget. Assuming it is the same.
13. **Next meeting date set for Monday, March 10 from 7:30-9:00.**