

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024

7:30-9:00 PM

Meeting Facilitator: Judy

Notes: MaryLee

Attendees: Victor Rivas, Luke Chesek, Jackie Sabath, MaryLee Haughwout, Lester Scheuermann, Judy Alba, Andy Doyle, Rocio Latorre, Gabe Popkin

### Agenda:

1. Introductions - (5 min)
2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting - (2 min)
  - a. Approved with update to include penalty language
3. Joe's Greenworks Tree Planting - Announcing Arbor Day - MaryLee/Others (15 min)
  - a. We've put together a communications plan. Announcing the opportunity on Arbor Day. Pink with the city is good to go on sharing. Echo on other community channels.
  - b. Given the built in maintenance, we also have the opportunity to solicit public space locations. Example, locations where a tree was removed the last few years, street trees where we note gaps. MaryLee will work on this.
  - c. MaryLee has an action to share the list of tree locations of the Casey Trees with Lester
4. Communications - Jackie (10 min)
  - a. Not sure of the next Message deadline and Jackie will check with Pink
  - b. Ideas for the future
    - i. Invasive vines and educate the community about the issue
    - ii. Sentence each, invasive vine removal, water young trees,
    - iii. Follow up with Gabe on his message
5. Updates on Spring/Fall Plantings/Replacements - MaryLee/Others (15 min)
  - a. Casey Trees - 60 trees in contract, 64 total. 47 trees planted (private, school, commercial)7 trees planted in ROW. TOTAL = 54 trees planted to date

- b. Joe's Greenworks - 7-8 trees planted on Bunker Hill Road (public)
  - c. County Levee Replacements - Need to follow up again. The contact is slow to respond. We estimated ~15 trees to be replaced. Timing now Fall.
  - d. WSSC - 12 replacement tree locations. Pink flagging is tied around each stake. I don't know the exact planting date, but Mike said Empire would schedule plantings for early to mid April.
  - e. Perry/Rhode Island - provided input last year for tree replacements/any updates? Andy asked about who will be responsible for watering these trees? Timing? Luke will circle back on timing and who is responsible for watering.
  - f. Other plantings in city – Gabe had questions about coordination of tree planting groups who have grant funding. Some are coordinating with us but don't have the bandwidth to coordinate more extensively. Any public tree planting along streets would need coordination with the city. At least 4 non-profits are planting within the city limits.
  - g. Watering Rogers Park, Richardson Park - need to include Pepco replacements
    - i. City will start watering Richardson Park trees and look to Tree Commission for updates
  - h. MNCPPC property weedwacker damage. MaryLee proposed some solutions to protect the base of these younger trees.
6. FY25 Budget and additional capacity - MaryLee (5 min)
- a. FY25 Tree Maintenance Request = \$85K
  - b. MaryLee emphasized the importance of building out capacity to support tree activities, as well as other green infrastructure priorities. The work of the Tree Commission is not sustainable, especially if turnover.
  - c. Rocio noted this and expressed her appreciation for the amount of work we do. Rocio and the City Manager have discussed our proposal and will look for opportunities. Funding is very tight but they see the benefit to the city long-term.
  - d. The Tree Commission will share opportunities as they come up.
7. City updates - Rocio/Victor (15 min)
- a. Update on tree maintenance and questions from email "Pruning needs and requests - feedback from PW requested", 2/29 & 3/21
    - i. DPW is using the same spreadsheet. Email communication is still the best way to note maintenance needs.

- ii. Email Victor, cc Rocio. Will get to them eventually. As long as communication - flag as urgent, etc.
    - iii. Spring maintenance - DPW is speaking with Josh at Bartlett. Still pruning to be done.
    - iv. Jackie brought up a large redbud on 32nd St. It wasn't looking alive but did leaf out. Action is to monitor for now.
  - b. Arundel Green Street status
    - i. 90% construction design was complete as of last year however no update for some time. The County had to redo some of the plans based on community feedback.
  - c. City infrastructure grant and nexus with Tree Commission
    - i. MaryLee noted the huge amount of grant funding and the need to coordinate with the Tree Commission if activities around/near/impacting trees.
    - ii. Rocio said we are a ways away from any activity. Toole Design did suggest bump outs, curb extensions, additional trees, rain gardens, etc. Future projects.
  - d. Follow up with MD DNR on street tree damage
    - i. Nothing ever came back. Horace usually stops by to drop off plaque and Rocio tried to call multiple times. Code Compliance sent notice of violation. Fine due to pay - maximum Fine was paid
  - e. 21 Year Sticker for Tree City USA signs
    - i. Got the approval - application was approved for Tree City USA. The city will order stickers.
  - f. Request to procure software for laptop. Andy will reach out to connect on the issue. Money is in the budget. Just need to make it happen.
8. Annual Tree Box walk - Lester (5 min)
- a. Preparing our tree box walk over the next 4-5 months.
  - b. Lester will be sending out info to commissioners like last year. What was really helpful, where new trees might be, where missing.
  - c. Potentially 3 people will make changes in AUTI: Lester, Gabe, Andy
  - d. Discussion about also notifying residents about vines choking trees and creating a flier.

- i. Residents need help - team of folks? Neighbors? Judy will start to think about that as an activity. Recreational Committee is doing an activity to clean up trash and make it fun. We could do something similar. Careful about capacity to handle this.
  - ii. Does Joe's Greenworks do vine removal? Andy will ask to find out more.
- 9. City trees outside of resident's property line: blocks with no sidewalks and alleys - Lester (10 min)
  - a. Lester provided a short overview of the issue and noted there could be around 100 trees city property that fall on blocks with no sidewalk, alley. 60 trees 10" in diameter or greater.
  - b. Need to id what are city trees and then remove the vines.
  - c. Add all trees on city property to AUTI
  - d. Assess the conditions of all these trees
  - e. Identify maintenance/removal needs
  - f. Work with the homeowner to educate and foster a cooperative relationship.
  - g. Trees neglected and hazardous. For shade trees, we want them to succeed.
  - h. Need to organize a meeting to discuss with the city
- 10. Next meeting date: Meeting June 20th.