
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD
MINUTES | MARCH 6, 2024

PRESENT: Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher,
Zack Dorner, Kathryn Kutzner, Deborah Taylor

ABSENT:

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): JBJ, Dawn Bohls

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

1) Approval of the February 2024 Minutes

Taylor motioned to approve the minutes. Randy seconded the motion and the February minutes were unanimously approved.

2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

One outstanding permit was approved. There were three more permits for February. Several hazard trees were also identified.

3) Potential Activities

We discussed hosting a *Meet and Greet*. Come meet the shade tree board. We need to come up with ideas to bring about community awareness of the importance of trees in our city.

Other discussions

Gloria mentioned that we need to somehow strengthen our ability to plant nice trees in appropriate places....not big trees under powerlines.

Taylor asked Dawn if developers need to have a tree plan for planting? Gloria said that they may not be the best plans. The county approves the developer's plans.

Dawn mentioned that the city does get an opportunity to review detailed site plans (DSP). However, often overhead power lines are not identified on the DSP. This is something we will pay closer attention to moving forward. Trees should be planted a minimum of 50 feet from overhead power. There are other guidelines per the county landscape manual that may benefit from review/update.

There is a new Landscape Manual that is used to guide DSP. Dawn doesn't know if the changes have been vetted.

Taylor asked about planting trees on the trolley trail and asked about tree planting at the Hyattsville Canvas Apartments, the new development across from busboys and poets. Dawn has not seen a design plan for the new development. She will look into planting on the trolley trail and will plant trees, if possible.

Kathryn will look into reconnecting with the Hyattsville Environment Committee.

Randy wondered about developing educational material about the crepe myrtle bark scale and the spotted lantern fly. Dawn mentioned that there is information on the website and that new research suggests that there may be natural ways of controlling the spotted lantern fly....praying mantis and parasitic wasps. Predatory Control! Spotted lantern flies produce a type of honey.

Deb wanted to know about how to get new free trees. The application is online and Dawn will set up an appointment with Casey Trees to meet the homeowner and assess the situation.

Zack asked about doing things that are not part of our meeting time, such as a meet and greet. We can do things offsite but need to report back to the committee for approval. We are an advisory board. We make recommendations. Dawn would suggest that we make a list of things we want to do and see happen throughout the year. Dawn will get clarification about how to hold a meet and greet.

We also talked about bringing about the champion tree recognition program again. We could hold in to celebrate arbor day.

We need to look into changing code and to make developers plant trees near the city where trees are removed. It does no good for Hyattsville to have canopy removed, and replacement trees planted in other parts of the county. We can advocate for this change and encourage folks to write county council to change code.

Dawn suggested inviting people to come to our meetings and advise on certain issues like this and thought about inviting whoever was in DC that developed the ordinance so we can hear how they got things done.

Dawn may talk to someone (Jared) on the environment committee. He may have input. We need to advise the council on how to move forward with this issue.

4) New Business

Assign brainstorming tasks for next meeting.....

Randy will come up with bullet points about a meet and greet at Hitching Post Hill.

Zack and Kathryn will talk about what an event at Streetcar 82 would look like.

Dawn will invite someone to attend a meeting that works in the political realm of trees.

Taylor will reach out to a DC arborist if Dawn gives a contact.

Gloria will send copies of the champion tree material we did a couple years ago.
There is an Arbor day celebration and 80 trees will be planted at the duck pond in University Hills on May 4th— 9:00 to noon and 60 students from Gonzaga will be working in the forest on April 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD, AT 7:30 PM.**