

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JULY 10, 2024

PRESENT: Zack Dorner, Kyla Gallagher, Taylor Johnson, Randy Fletcher (*late*), Dawn Bohls (*not an official member yet*)

ABSENT: Deborah Taylor, Kathryn Kutzner, Gloria Felix-Thompson

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): David Lampen and Maximiliano Vasques

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm.

1) **Approval of the June 2024 Minutes**

Dawn Taft and Dawn Bohls suggested a couple minor changes to the minutes. Taylor motioned to approve the June minutes with these changes and they were approved.

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

Permits for 005, 016, and 023 from last month were approved. 005 was a sweet gum with a girdling root, which may have been savable, but the 3rd party assessor did not want to take the risk for having the tree fall into the neighbor's yard. 023 was a huge oak. Structural pruning could have saved it. The tree had two big split limbs, but one died, leaving the remaining limb leaning over an apartment complex. It was deemed a potential hazard.

027 was denied. It is a healthy maple

Outstanding permits 026, and 028-030 were approved

There are 4-5 hazard trees waiting to be looked at.

3) **New Business**

Zach asked Dawn Taft if there was any news on the changes to the ordinance. Dawn reported that the ordinance has gone through code compliance, and that the next step is to present it to counsel. This is usually done through the tree board liaison, which we don't currently have. We may ask Danny Schaible, who was our tree board liaison, if he could present for us. This could possibly happen next month. We will add language to the ordinance that trees can't be planted in the public right-of-way without approval by the city arborist. Dawn will send a link to the latest iteration of the ordinance for one last peak.

The tree board could request that the ordinance and information about trees be prepared in English and Spanish. Kyla speaks Spanish and may be a good resource for translating any of our documents.

Tree board members can share documents on the shared google drive. Dawn Taft will look into updating access and adding people, so we can start using it more robustly.

The city has planted most of the 750 trees funded by ARPA. There are only 124 more to plant.

Tree bags are available from the city to help water trees planted in the right-of-way. The tree diapers, which have been used instead of the gator bags for the past few years have been found to promote root growth near the surface. The roots are growing up into the diaper instead of down into the soil. The diapers are being removed, and the use of gator bags is being promoted.

Fall workshops: September is *Family Day* (fun for the whole family), October is *Right Tree-Right Place* (where to plant properly), and November will be a *Pruning Workshop* with Casey Trees. The save-the-dates have been sent out. Taylor recommended including information about planting in the fall, which is the better time to plant new trees.

The *Green Summit* is in October. Dawn Bohls may present information about mosquito control or ivy removal. Gat traps may be on sale. The city will have a table and the tree board may also want to set up a table to promote information about the board, ordinance, and importance of trees. The deadline for reserving a table for this event is the end of August, so we will need to decide at the August meeting on whether or not to reserve a table. This will be put on the agenda for next month

4) **Public Comment**

David Lampen, introduced himself and mentioned that he is interested in seeing what the tree board does, and if he may want to become involved.

Taylor asked Dawn Taft if the city has any say in what species of tree gets planted when new development is proposed. Does the city know how the county handles the planning of this? The city is able to review plans and make recommendations however the real issue is that the county regulations need to be updated. There is a revised version but Taft does not believe it has been accepted yet.

Taylor motioned to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 8:20 pm.

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