
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD
MINUTES | SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

PRESENT: Zack Dorner, Kyla Gallagher, Randy Fletcher, Dawn Bohls,
Deborah Taylor, Kathryn Kutzner, Taylor Johnson, John Healy

ABSENT: Gloria Felix-Thompson

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s):

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

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

Dawn B. spotted a typo on item 4. It was fixed, and Kyla motioned to approve the August minutes with this correction. The August minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Five permits (033 – 037) were approved and (038) was denied. Two illegal removals will be investigated by Dawn T. *Reminder—If we see a tree being removed illegally, call the non-emergency number to report it.*

3) **Old Business**

A. *Revisions to the Tree Ordinance.*

Dawn B. had a couple comments on the summary to discuss. (Residents in violation of the permit must replace tree—for discussion). She mentioned that a neighbor had a dead tree that they could not afford to remove, and it was a dangerous situation.

There is language on E. in the ordinance (Property owners fined for illegal removal of a tree(s) shall plant a replacement tree(s) per replacement guidelines. There is no language in the ordinance about getting a permit in an emergency in case of an emergency.

Dawn T. handles these on a case-by-case basis. Zack pointed out 112-4. A, which has language about hazards.

If homeowner has an emergency, don't wait for a permit, call Dawn T. to get emergency removal approval.

112-4. A. The wording is good if legal approves.

Dawn B. found several typos that are being addressed.

112-3 A. Discussion about use of City Arborist. She questioned the use of (Director of Public Works). Legal will iron out the language.

112.4 E. Taylor. Leave language as is. Drop (shall immediately) to (May notify).

Zack edited the ordinance in a couple places.

H. Delete (City) and change (investigate) to (shall discuss the possible violation). Should we add /penalty? ...we will flag it for consistency of language about penalties.

Zack made a few consistency changes to the google doc.

B. Vote that members of the Board agree with the updates to the ordinance.

The board had consensus to move forward. Randy motioned to approve, and we unanimously voted to ship it off to council.

C. Green Summit Planning

October 19 is the day of the Summit. We will sign up to man the table on the google doc and at the next meeting. Zack will send the sign-up sheet. Dawn B. and T. will donate stickers. Dawn will ask for 150 rain gauges. Dawn will share a list of resources to share at the summit. Dawn T has educational files.... how to plant, identify leaves, acorns, etc. One idea is to have visitors make a collage of found objects from trees and other stuff found on the forest floor. We can provide examples of invasives at the table. We need to have input by the end of September about what we want to do at the table, so we can implement changes.

4) New Business

Extend Meeting Time to 1.5 Hours

We will discuss extending the time for our meetings at the October meeting. We could start at 7:00 instead of 7:30. Because it's a public meeting, we need to make it official, but we aim to keep the meeting short. We will leave the meeting time the same (7:30) for next month.

Family Day has been moved to a new date.

Family day has been moved from Saturday to Sunday because it competes with Arts and Ales. 9/22 all things trees at Deitz Park. Tree walk, leaf tracing. Fun stuff for people of all ages.

5) Public Comment

None

The meeting ended at 8:39 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, AT 7:30 PM.**