
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JULY 5, 2023

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

ABSENT: Kathryn Kutzner

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Danny Schaible

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

- 1) The minutes from the June 2023 meeting were not submitted prior to the July meeting. It was decided to put off the approval of the June minutes until the August meeting. Randy will send the June minutes to Dawn, who will distribute them to the tree board.
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

Six permits were approved (including one outstanding permit from May. The other outstanding May permit remains outstanding). There were five more permits approved and five more outstanding.

No illegal tree removals or hazards to report at this time.

Taylor questioned if Dawn can get help approving tree permits if she gets too busy. Tree permits have a 45 day turn-around. Dawn turns them around in five-ten days. Lesley and Anthony can fill in if Dawn needs help with urgent situations.

The courts asked Dawn to prove that the city is getting permit information out to the public. Several people that have been fined claim that they knew nothing about the permit requirements. Dawn had a report generated from city communications to prove that they are getting the information out to the public, which they are.

- 3) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112
There was a question about sending chapter 112 draft revisions to Code Compliance prior to sending to Legal. Gloria mentioned that Code compliance will meet on the 3rd Wednesday in August. Dawn will follow up with Lesley.

We will update the tree permit to include two categories:

1. Proposed Removal
2. Proposed Replacement

Dawn will address highlighted draft revisions DT4R3, DT10R9, DT13R9 with Lesley

We discussed DT31 (Dawn's yellow highlighted draft)

Taylor wanted to clarify (worse case scenario: 3 trees illegally removed. \$1,000 per tree plus two additional repeats at \$1,000 per tree.)

If someone illegally removes a tree, they will be fined the maximum for that offense. if they do it again in the future, they should be fined. *"If you do it again, you should get hit with a fine since you already know about the fines."*

We added a new bullet, 112-6 A. (3) B., which follows 112-6 A. (3) A.

Each repeat offense will be fined \$1,000 in addition to the fine for each specific offense (as defined in 112-6 A. (3) A.).

4) New Business

Taylor asked Dawn: "When we have contractors, like the ones at the middle school, does the city have any input into the types of trees they plant? Dawn replied, "yes and no." The county approves the plans that are submitted, and the city can make recommendations to those plans. Taylor thinks that they sometime plant inappropriate trees. Dawn was able to save a few trees by asking the contractor to move a fence to help save a large healthy white oak. She also mentioned that the contractor was working favorably with the city and neighbors to make things good with everyone.

Dawn got the ARPA funding to plant trees on private property. She asked if we would promote this information to neighbors, churches, businesses, apartment buildings, etc. to help spread the word.

Ivy removal update:

Things are going well right now. They are using CCAN's *release of liability*, which is good through March 2024. Once the grant is over, they will not be able to promote invasive ivy removal on private property.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

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