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# CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

## MINUTES | NOVEMBER 6, 2024

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

**ABSENT:** Gloria Felix-Thompson, John Healy

**STAFF:** Dawn Taft

**VISITOR(s):** Maximiliano Vasquez

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

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

Zack motioned to approve the minutes with a minor change that Dawn T made on the google drive, and Randy seconded the motion. The October minutes were unanimously approved.

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

An 80” dead tree was removed without a permit (002). The full fine was recommended (\$1,000). Non-professionals removed the dead tree and damaged a power line, interrupting electricity to neighbors on the street. According to the ordinance, this removal is a violation. A certified/bonded tree-care expert must be retained for any tree removal in the state of Maryland. A second tree was illegally removed (003). This will be treated as a maximum fine because the property owner has not granted permission to access the property to measure the tree. Under the ordinance, Dawn is able to determine fines. We discussed this situation and felt that the full fine (\$1,000) for illegal removal is appropriate.

6 permits were granted. (044) was approved as were (045-048) and (050). (049) is pending denial and waiting for a third-party assessment. Dawn will report back in December

*Status of revisions to the ordinance.* Dawn heard from councilman Schaible. He confirmed that he submitted our recommendations to council. Once it’s on the docket, one or two members of the tree board should accompany Dawn Taft to the council meeting to answer any questions that may come up.

3) **Green Summit Thanks**

*Thanks to everyone who helped with this event!* The leaf quiz was a great success, as was the hula hooping. The bussing/parking situation was a little annoying and may have deterred some visitors from attending the summit.

#### 4) **New Business**

A. Let's start thinking about possible 2025 events, especially if we need to seek funding from council for any of them?

- Tree recognition (Champion Tree)
- Street car 82 event
- Hitching Post Hill event.

*Zack will set up a document on the google drive so that we can start brainstorming ideas.*

B. Election of chair, co-chair, and recorder will take place at the December meeting.

C. Randy will not be able to attend the December meeting. Taylor will fill in as recorder.

D. Zack will post 2025 meeting dates on the google drive

Deb asked what the annual tree care budget for Hyattsville is. Dawn T mentioned that it is over \$100,000 for maintenance. Tree planting is additional. Casey Trees has been planting in the city utilizing ARPA funds, which are about to expire. Dawn will be looking for new grants/funding to pay for tree planting on private property.

She is also looking at ways to find more planting space in the city, like some of the trees planted in Silva Cells on Nicholson Street. Silva cells are pervious slabs, like concrete, that have an underlying grid that allows water to penetrate and reach the tree roots. This allows the trees to flourish in more compact spaces. This is innovative technology, but very expensive. The link shows what they are and how they work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRSlY23B01c>

Another idea may be turning select streets into one-way streets, which would allow for more planting space and help calm traffic.

We can discuss these and other ideas at a future meeting.

#### **A. Public Comment**

None

The meeting ended at 8:29 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, AT 7:30 PM.**