
3CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JUNE 7, 2023

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

ABSENT: Kathryn Kutzner, Zack Dorner

STAFF: Lesley Riddle

VISITOR(s):

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

1) The minutes from the May 2023 meeting were approved

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

TP23-025 outstanding from May was approved.

TP23-026 and 027 Approved

TP23-028 and 029 currently outstanding.

No additional hazards to report at this time.

A large tree at 4108 Jefferson Street was removed after a detailed inspection from Bartlett Trees. Approximately 50% or more of the root flare of this tree was compromised although the upper canopy remained solid.

3) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112

In 112-4.A (To Address) Maybe Hardship should go in another section to be addressed at June meeting.

If the city tells you to remove a tree, you are exempt from obtaining a permit.
We need to readdress a waiver under a *financial hardship*.

Zach was not able to attend this meeting but sent in this note about a hardship clause:

I have a comment about "hardship" to add before the June meeting. I think it's important to have language about a hardship exemption or something along those lines given the financial burden of tree removal. That said, I don't think we should require any proof of hardship. Studies have shown that requiring proof can be bureaucratically cumbersome and "means-testing" can be demeaning to people. If the option exists and people declare that they need help, that should or could be enough. There will be some people who might take advantage of this arrangement, but it would preserve dignity and accessibility for people who truly need it.

Gloria thinks Lesley should comment on this.

Lesley said that they are working on adjusting the budget to help with assistance in hardship cases. There must be an application in order to use the city fund. There must be disclosure. There will be a review board with a cap on the grant. It should be handled with sensitivity and disclosure through this process and also with empathy. She mentioned that contractors in past have given work "at cost" to help assist residents.

Use General language about hardship. If you have needs:

112-4

112-4b hardship

Where do we add this language? Put it a couple places.

Remedial action 112-6.

Lesley can make suggestion to language and where to put it. And, it will get its own letter.

Taylor said, "Apply for a hardship" should be the language

There should be nine members.... All members should serve without compensation. We need to strike this language. Taylor said, "Legal will modify it based on current charter and code." The Shade Tree Board voted unanimously to strike this language. For the attorney's purpose, the copy must show redacted language with the updated language in body of code. That's how it will go into record.

In 112-3 and Dawn wants a tree protection zone

Lesley: The tree protection zone language would not go in this code. Community and economic development/soil disturbance.

Taylor: Add a category for this about damaging trees/cobbling/pollarding. Find a specific space for this. Most trees in construction zones are protected. How do we craft language, and Lesley is not sure this language would work here. Lesley will talk to Dawn. It may be feasible. It is part of tree protection.

If it's somewhere else in the city code that's ok, but it's also OK to duplicate it.

Dawn's official title is "City Arborist." It should be consistent throughout the draft.

We agreed to send draft revisions to legal for city staff approval.

The process:

- Send to legal.
- We could see changes from legal in July or August
- It becomes a presentation item with city council
- The board will present to council
- It comes back as a discussion item
- Council will approve in the fall.

Kathryn made the motion to approve with provisional changes by staff.

4) New Business

Kathryn questioned how to recruit new members and asked if the city has something like "find your ministry day"?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, AT 7:00 PM.**

New 7:00 Start time for the June AND July meetings.