

## City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Friday 11 September 2020 APPROVED 11/6/20

### Zoom Meeting

Present: Luebke, Smith, Felix-Thompson, Johnson, Freemyn

Absent: Fletcher, Immordino

Staff: Riddle, Taft

Visitor: none

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 pm.

The minutes from August meeting have one correction, Lesley Riddle. Otherwise approved.

The following outstanding permits were discussed:

Total of 12 permits this month, one denied, 3 not applicable bc undersize, 12 hazards reported, 8 permits approved. Now seeing the results of last season's drought and wetness.

Many of our native species of oak are susceptible to climate change bc of large rapid variations in temperature and weather. Trees might actually split open from too much water.

Suggestions to Suggestions to 112-4.1 – no changes suggested

Changes to 112-4.2 (a) include the section approved at last meeting that tree size be diminished to 24" circumference. Younger trees at 24" have been in place for some time, they are young and healthy when we are losing older trees.

112-4.2 (b)- A resident *may* be required, should be changed to *shall*-approved. There was also discussion about whether or not to change replacement provision to include pre-planting as per the motion from Taylor at previous meeting. Concern about how much extra work this might put on the city staff. Dawn said she already does this to some extent when talking to residents applying for permits. So, perhaps we say replacement *may* include credit for trees planted before removal at the discretion of the arborist. We will revisit

Heritage tree proposal, should go to city council for 5 October meeting. We also suggest an essay contest for youth, by 29 September we need a write up of the proposal, mock up, short paragraph on what is intended with the program. We need a vetted flier ready for printing, how this will work, Lesley will check to see if the city will be able to translate to Spanish for the other side of the flyer. We should start promotion in March for an end date 30 April. City was incorporated

April 7, 1886. So, our planned timing spans one month either side of that. Gloria suggested we propose a \$100 prize funded by council members, contest open to Middle school aged students or residents of Hyattsville city.

#### New Business:

Drainage from the nursing home construction is running down 36<sup>th</sup> street. To solve it, there is a proposal to dig a large drainage ditch that will damage tree roots and likely kill trees. Residents want guarantees from the contractor that he will pay to remove the tree. Also residents wonder if they need a permit for the removal. (yes they do). It is up to the contractor to communicate to the resident that they need to apply for a permit.

Dawn announced that Joe has agreed to create a tree walk for the Storm Water grant, they will ask for support from the tree board. Dawn had a free tree give away as part of the grant, received 71 more requests than she had trees. She is now looking for funding of close to \$8,000 to cover the extra trees. She is eager to fund all the trees because this is for planting on private property and it is so hard to get residents to plant on their properties. The people receiving these trees were asked if they would like more trees, 80-90% said yes. They also indicated interest in being part of the phrenology study.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55

Next meeting October 2 at 1:30