

City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Friday 5 March 2021

Zoom Meeting

Present: Millard Smith, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Theresa Immordino,
Taylor Johnson, Randy Fletcher

Absent: Keondra Freemyn

Staff: Lesley Riddle, Dawn Taft

Visitor: Karen Kwon

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm.

Gloria will fix the February minutes (Lesley Riddle was not present).
The minutes from February meeting were approved.

The following outstanding permits were discussed:

Permit TP21-003—not approved or denied, Dawn will send application to Gloria.

Permit TP21-004—was approved. It is a large silver maple in severe decline with multiple hollows and is a hazard to home on property.

Amendment/clause to the Prince George's County real estate contract.
Dawn has reached out to the person and has not heard back.

Heritage Trees Artwork and Creative Writing Contest
Judging Criteria was approved by Dawn and all present board members.

All board members will be judges and there may be an additional judge (Jessica).
Marketing has been implemented by the City and Gloria will send information out to the HPA membership. Gloria will reach out to Mr. Peabody about getting the information distributed at Northwestern High School and Hyattsville Middle School. Taylor will reach out to DeMatha.

Heritage Tree Plaques are 6x4.
Dawn suggested using the following on the plaque:
City Logo
Heritage Tree 2021
Hyattsville 135th Anniversary.

Lesley and Dawn will have the vendor come up with layout which will be approved by the tree board.

Nine people have applied for plaques. Taylor is adding new applicants to the google sheet as they come in. We will discuss how the plaques are presented at our April meeting (in person at an outdoor event, mailed with a letter, etc.)

New Business:

Lesley Riddle introduced the concept of “Healthy Tree Hyattsville,” which is in planning stages. It is a program that will encourage people to plant trees on their property and will help teach about tree care/health/planting/education. One of the biggest components of program will be funding and grants.

Tree board members must refrain from speaking to media on behalf of the city. When media inquiries come in, they must be referred back to the city at pio@hyattsville.org.

Arbor day is postponed due to covid. However, a small event is planned for planting 43 trees and shrubs along the trail at 38th Avenue Park on April 30th. There will probably be plantings at 10:00 am and Noon. We are hoping to have 10 volunteers at each planting session. Small “pods” of 4-5 people are encouraged, so that everyone will be safe/socially distanced. Holes will be pre-dug. Gash’s Funeral Home has volunteered to help plant trees.

Theresa asked about getting volunteers to remove vines from trees around the city, but at the moment, due to covid, the city cannot.

Theresa sent a list of addresses where trees have been removed. Dawn will look into getting in touch with the owners to see if they would like new trees planted. Gloria suggested sending homeowners a certificate for a “free tree” along with a letter asking if the homeowners would like a free tree planted on their property or on the public strip in front of their home.

Dawn talked about the upcoming Humane Gardening Workshop with Nancy Lawson on March 10. She also mentioned the Watershed Steward Program, and that three individuals have signed up.

Gloria gave Dawn a gentle reminder about the ordinance rewrite.

Visitor Karen Kwon asked about the Heritage Tree Competition.

The next tree board meeting is THURSDAY, April 1 at 1:30 pm, not Friday April 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32