
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | AUGUST 3, 2022

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

ABSENT: Keondra Freemyn

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Danny Schaible (Ward 2 Council member and Tree Board Liaison), Kathryn Kutzner

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

Welcome to guest Kathryn Kutzner, and quick Introduction about the tree board

- 1) The minutes from the July 2022 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

There were no illegal removals to report this month. There were 9-10 applications for permits submitted, and a retraction from last month. The permit for removal was originally declined, but the resident came back and wanted to remove it. Bartlett Tree Experts did an appraisal and the permit for removal was approved.

~~There is a loss of trees to deer and when these trees were replaced, you could see the ones that were planted properly vs. those not planted properly. The root balls on the trees planted properly were spread out and thriving. The others had root balls that maintained the original container shape. Education on the importance of planting trees properly.~~

Smitty mentioned that there are two trees on his street that were supposed to get deer protection installed, but the protection put in place is actually for beaver string trimmers. Dawn will check to make sure that actual deer protection gets put on the trunks.

~~There was is a loss of trees to deer at 38th Ave Park. Wand when these trees were replaced, you could see the ones that were planted properly vs. those not planted properly. The root balls on the trees planted properly were spread out and thriving. The others had root balls that maintained the original container shape, emphasizing the. Education on the importance of proper tree planting trees properly education.~~

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Dawn spoke about the interns that have been removing invasive vines from the trail. She also mentioned that Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP) members can have tree vines removed by Janet and her team for free. The city needs to develop a team of “Weed Warriors/Ivy Patrolers” to keep the city free of invasive vines and other weeds. *The challenge is liability—people going onto private property to remove invasive vines.*

3) Brief Subcommittee Report on “Options Matrix” being developed

[Zach Zack](#) gave a quick report on subcommittee meeting ~~to~~ determine easy guidelines for tree replacement. They met in person and over zoom with Danny Schaible, who also provided comments. The grid was condensed down, and they proposed to keep it simple, with two categories (Large and Small) with options within. Large=Overstory, Small=Understory

Dawn mentioned that when Pepco has a replacement program that meets the needs of the tree permit requirements. ~~removes a tree(s) they will ask the resident what tree to replace with.~~ If resident rejects tree replacement on their property, Dawn will find another location within the city to plant it.

Two additional comments were made

1. We have to note size requirement of replacement.
2. We have to define tree size
Understory—up to 35 feet high
Overstory—40-100 feet high.

Taylor mentioned that the code says to replace “like for like” yet everything is based on size of trunk. We should list species, determine whether the replacement will be understory or overstory, then approve species replacement.

Gloria brought up that what is missing from the document is people on fixed incomes that can’t afford to pay for removal and then replacement, and what can be done to help them. It is an unfair hardship. Some accommodations should be made to help.

Dawn mentioned that a system is being developed to help provide aid for this scenario. She also mentioned that the county offers a rebate for trees and residents can get up to \$150 back. Dawn will keep looking for funds to help out.

Gloria had to leave at 8:15.

4) **New Business**—The Audubon Society is training residents (mid-Aug advertising) to get your yard certified as a bird sanctuary. There will be a focus on native plants. Education on why native...and teach what’s invasive. They will work with you to clean up and

remove non-native species. They provide a plaque and participants will get a yard assessment. You can become a trainer or assessor or just have your yard assessed.

There is a mosquito webinar on August 24th. The speaker will talk about how University Park has tried to keep the mosquito population down without the use of harsh chemicals. This was done using GAT traps, which work on tiger mosquitos. The city ~~is looking into a similar program using GAT traps and UMD student research to will pay for the traps and participating neighbors will work together to get the~~ populations under control.
<https://us.biogents.com/bg-gat>

There is an *Environmental Coordinator job* open in the city. Check out the city website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

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