

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

February 6, 2024

Meeting Minutes

5:00 – 7:00 pm

In-Person Meeting – Parks and Recreation Office (Downtown Mall, Adjacent to Parking Garage)

Attendees: Vicki Metcalf, Susan McKinnon, Holly Lafferty, Tyler Miller, Karim Habbab, Donna Shaunesey, Steve Gaines

Call to Order and Approval of January Minutes - approved

Staff Report (*S. Gaines*)

- Recent Grant Award – City Staff has formed a sub-committee to organize RFP for bid. Grant rules have changed a bit, must have more concentration on serving low-income communities. Details to come.
- Rx Fire has officially been awarded Invasive Plant Control/Containment Bid. Next projects include John Warner Parkway, and a new property acquisition near High Street
- Wolf/Josey completed soil sampling and Level III assessments on downtown mall trees. Results will be presented in management plan coming in July. The city has formed a steering committee to present stakeholder priorities (Tree Commission has representation on committee). Found the trees are more solid than expected, which is great news.

New/Old Business:

- State of the Forest – the group agreed to explore doing this report earlier in the year next year to inform the budgeting process. They reviewed a draft of the report and offered suggestions.
- Tree Planting Data (Susan) – still waiting for RCA numbers
- Overhaul to Urban Forestry website – Austin Texas has a great site. Tree inventory is not up-to-date, information is hard to find. Commissioners offered a few tweaks to Steve's proposal and agree the overhaul is needed. <https://gisweb.charlottesville.org/Citygreen/> has good maps. Now that the zoning ordinance has passed, Commissioners will focus on nominating new notable trees.
- Invasives Flash Card – will now be just a third of a page in the Parks and Rec document, so the document is moot. The education effort may be taken up with a volunteer to educate middle schoolers. Light House Studios may take this on.

Elections/Membership

Currently have 1 application for membership. Deadline for applications is Feb 9th for March start date – could be extended to March for April start date.

Committee Reports

- Education & Advocacy (*J Umiker-Sebeok*) Jean put together a great document for onboarding new members. Members are invited to give her comments.
- Arbor Committee (*M Tolbert*) No report
- Codes (*V Metcalf*) - Reviewed the tree-related bills in the General Assembly and the new requirements for Tree Removal Permits