

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

March 5, 2024

Meeting Minutes

5:00 – 7:00 pm

In-Person Meeting at Parks and Recreation Office

Attendees: Jeff Atan, JD Brown, Karim Habbab, Holly Lafferty, Susan McKinnon, Tyler Miller, Jean Sebeok, Donna Shaunesey, Makshya Tolbert, Steve Gaines

Call to Order and Approval of February Minutes – Approved

Staff Report (Steve Gaines)

- Inflation Reduction Act grant awarded by the US Forest Service will fund preparation of new forest management plan. Approval of final grant form and receipt of initial funding as early as April 2024.
- Rx Fire will begin mulching at Free Bridge Property (1.8 acres) week of March 4. Rivanna Conservation Alliance will be assisting with tree plantings – approximately 200-300 trees will be planted.
- Invasive Plant Control Projects On-Deck: John Warner Parkway, Oak Street (Oakwood Cemetery), Quarry Park.
- Wolf/Josey completed meetings/discussions with Community/Staff Steering Committees as part of the process to create a Downtown Mall Tree Management Plan. Plan should be completed by summer 2024.
- Spring plantings will occur with remaining city funds for planting. 10-20 trees will be planted around the city.

New/Old Business

State of the Forest (follow-up discussion)

- Report due to City Council by mid-March
- Presentation to council at April council meeting (Makshya and Tyler to co-present)
- Continued comments and revisions discussed with aim to complete full report this week
- Important point of emphasis for future city efforts is that new plantings cannot effectively replace the value lost by the removal of existing trees

Tree Commission Onboarding for new members: Recommended five (5) new members for commission subject to approval of City Council

Urban Forestry website has been updated.

Committee Reports not presented. Relevant discussion to be continued until the next meeting.

Adjourned 7:00pm