

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

May 7th, 2024

5:00 – 7:00 pm

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

Call to Order and Approval of April Minutes (M. Tolbert) – 5:00

In attendance:

MaKshya Tolbert
Steve Gains
Tyler Miller
Donna Shaunesey
Woody Parish
Shanti Levy
Eric Bredder
Jeff Atewn
Holly Lafferty
Betsey Roettger

Not in attendance:

Manuel Landau
Susan McKinnon

New Tree Commissioners – Introductions (5:00-5:30)

- Introductions
- Discussion for potential for remote access through amendment of bylaws
- Plan for rotating assignment of note taking

Staff Report – 5:30-6:00 (S. Gaines)

- Recent Grant Award – Update- Charlottesville Procurement has advertised RFP to hire a contractor. Hope to have a contractor starting work by mid-June.
- RFQ for watering contract out to bid – watering approx. 400 trees that were planted in that last few years May through September
- Invasive Control/Containment – Contractor has completed mulching work at Quarry Park (about 2.5 acres) and JW Parkway (about 1.5 acres).
- Approximately 400 trees planted at Quarry Park (Northern Red Oak, White Oak, Smooth Sumac) - Over 35 volunteers came out to support the planting.
- Mulching started on Oakwood Cemetery (1 acre) - operations will be concluded after trash/debris removed from the center of the unit – will plan to install trees in fall 2024.
- Mulching operations are suspended until winter (and next CIP cycle). Remaining funds will be spent on native groundcover seed/installation and herbicide applications through the growing season.
- Tree Planting Contractor (from spring 2023) replaced trees that died in spring 2023 planting. Planted additional 15 trees on city properties.
- Parks and Rec has hired a seasonal urban forest technician (Carolyn Thanig). She will be assisting with street tree inventory, invasive vegetation

assessments, and trail work.

- Street tree inventory will be geolocated
- Discussion of available software to improve mapping
- Are there available partners or grants to explore improved mapping?
- Opportunities for community science support for mapping?
- Additional interest in Virginia Urban Wood Network and increased interest regarding invasive plant control/containment outreach.
- Members of Tree Commission, Blue Ridge Prism, RE Leaf Cville, Parks/Rec, Rivanna Conservation Alliance, Piedmont Environmental Council, Nature Conservancy, and Piedmont Botanical Garden discussed methods to reach a broader audience in regards to invasive vegetation awareness/education and community management programming.
 - Suggestion to include HOAs and neighborhood associations
- Kudos to Paul Josey and Keith Prichard for assistance with 2nd Street White Oak trees – for the time, the majority of these trees will be preserved.
 - Big victory – shift in prior plan to cut trees – potential for case study for how to preserve existing trees
- Downtown Mall Tree Management Plan
 - Discussion of timing and public process
 - Current consultation with city steering committee (city staff) and advisory committee (includes representative from Tree Commission)

New/Old Business: 6:00-6:50

- New Business: Tree Commission 2024 Priorities and Subcommittees (*M. Tolbert*)
 - Summarize Tree Commission current stated goals
 - Discussion of stating goal of tree preservation, protection, and planting on private as well as public lands
 - State of the Forest report as driver in terms of capacity to complete report and guide work/reporting from subcommittees
 - Discuss/amend scope of subcommittee descriptions
 - Distributed document with subcommittee descriptions, scopes, suggestions, questions
 - Agreement for subcommittees to meet within the next month to review current described scope, to identify/clarify areas of overlap, and to prioritize tasks for next year
 - Prioritizing range and priorities per subcommittee (10ish min/cmte)
 - Education/Advocacy
 - To communicate why tree presentation is important and why we are adopting new legal protections
 - Arbor
 - Codes and Zoning
 - Tree permitting enforcement mechanism
 - What new opportunities exist for the city to improve its ordinances with new authorities granted by newly adopted state laws?
 - Chairs and members of each subcommittee (proposed)
 - Education/Advocacy:
 - Susan, Chair (nominated)
 - Eric

- Holly
- Arbor:
 - Donna
 - MaKshya
 - Shanti
 - Jeff
- Codes and Zoning:
 - Tyler, Chair
 - JD
 - Betsey
 - Woody

Subcommittee Reports – no report-outs

- Education & Advocacy
- Arbor Committee
- Codes and Practices

Items/Announcements Not on Agenda/Action Items for Next Meeting

- Time to start thinking toward a SOTF to send at the beginning of CFP budgeting process: what are the models, research, and priorities we need to start discussing and clarifying?

Adjourned – 7:00