

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

July 2, 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*)

Members Present

MaKshya Tolbert (MT)

Steve Gaines (SG)

Tyler Miller (TM)

Donna Shaunesey (DS)

Shanti Levy (SL) (Won't be here in August)

Susan McKinnon (SM)

Manuel Lerdau (ML)

Woody Parrish (WP)

Members Absent

Eric Bredder (EB) (1)

Jeff Aten (JA) (3)

Holly Lafferty (HL) (1?)

Betsy Roettger (BR) (1)

JD Brown (JB) (2) - will also be absent in August.

New Member(s) Introduction: Manuel Lerdau (ML)

Professor at UVA in Biology with a focus on forests, trees, birds, other taxa, and stress physiology work. Does some work at Morven, and also on a 500 acres Pace estate in Fluvanna. Notable tract because Pace was given directly to his department - not to UVA or the UVA foundation. Also does some work out of Milton Airfield (The center for urban habitats is also there - was the Charlottesville Airport until WW2).

5:10–5:30 pm – Staff Report (*S. Gaines*)

- Recent Grant Award – brief update regarding RFP and contractor selection.
 - None of the contractors were local.
 - Hoping to get the Tree Canopy Analysis done within a year. This is separate from the on ground analysis.
 - Question We Need to Answer: We don't actually know who does the aerial photography for this region.
 - Hoping to have a contractor on board and how we're going to initiate this grant in the coming months.
- Invasive Plant Control Update: Rx Fire has completed all herbicide treatments, Shenandoah Habitats has completed all ground cover installations fund. The Invasive Vegetation Control budget has been exhausted. Operations will resume in September 2024.
 - Pretty much done all of the herbicide treatments for the year.
 - Completed ground cover installations.
 - Spent entire \$75K that council gave us.

- Will start over again this year.
- Will be pretty selective about where we plan to do our mulching and planting - because we don't want to get over extended.
- So far we have 7 locations where we already started.
- Location Ideas:
 - CHRA: 1.5 acres they won't develop at near 1st St. and Moores creek (Near Hartmans Mill.
 - Another area - staying in Moores Creek area and staying in that area as well.
 - Seems unlikely that the invasives would get cleaned out on Pollacks branch right now because we would require easements for the upper parts - across from the cemetery.
 - Riverview park - between the park and free bridge.
 - Overall: 1-2 medium size areas so that we can continue to spray and do work on what we've already done.
 - Susan: In terms of funding - as we add more and more are we adding more and more requests in terms of what we're trying to request for.
 - Steve: Yes - and we're looking in at 2026. The request for 2025 went in during summer 2023. I think everything should go up.
- Urban Forestry Technician (Carolyn Thanig) has completed the survey for 2023-2024 tree installations. Findings will be uploaded to Urban Forestry website/GIS layer
 - Has tallied in exhausting detail what's alive and what's dead for tree installations.
 - Logged on the city's GIS (field maps is the application).
- -Wolf/Josey is finishing up the Downtown Mall Tree Management Plan. Presented an overview of analysis to City Staff on June 21. Presentation to City Staff (economic dept, NDS, Public Works, etc) will occur mid-July. Presentation for the Advisory Committee will be late July – Tree Commission members are welcome to attend the presentation. Presentation to the BAR and City Council will occur in August.
 - Will be doing a presentation for all interested parties and the BAR association and Friends of Charlottesville downtown at some point around July 30th. Hoping for virtual and in person - tree commission is invited. Date not entirely set.
 - They gave us a number of suggestions:
 - 1 City Block at a time. (Seems to be their primary suggestion).
 - 1 Bosque at a time.
 - Suggested Four phases over 20 years.
 - Phase 1: Central Place/Paramount
 - Phase 2: Nook/Movie Theatre
 - Phase 3: Around Millers
 - Phase 4: Mary-Go Round
 - Phase 5: Chaps and Zocalos
 - Did indicated they'd plant in the sealed locations around Zocalo.
 - Species:
 - Yellow poplar
 - Swamp White Oak
 - Jefferson Elm - similar to princeton elm (Hybrid thats resistant to DED)
 - Overcup Oak
 - Nut Tail Oak
 - Willow Oak

- Shumard Oak
 - Sweet Gum
 - Pond Cypress
 - Controversy (Willow Oaks = yellow, Maples = Red)
 - Looking for trees that if we irrigate and take care of it that it will provide shade quickly.
 - Steve expects all willow oaks to be cut over the next 20 years.
 - (MT) Will this be publicized?
 - Steve: I'm sure.
 - (SL) Is the June presentation available for us to see?
 - Not sure but will look.
 - (TM) I find the fact that the City's Tree Commission was not involved as a whole in this process to be problematic.
 - (MT) to the degree that public input is or isn't crucial, it isn't happening. The tree commission could have been part of this messaging process, etc.
 - Steve: Somewhere in the course of this there was a timeline and a finished project - i don't remember it being set in stone.
 -
- Urban Wood Network – Parks and Recreation plans to add a Budget Item for this effort. **Request Tree Committee support for City Council Presentation in Fall 2024.**
 - For minimum effort I think we could change the ordinance.
 - The major hang up with procurement is that our process is that if there's anything extra, or that the city wants to get rid of, if it's over \$100 it has to go to city council and the council has to approve it being sold.
 - **Suggestion: add addendum to the ordinance for wood.**
 - (TM) I can bring language for this to the next meeting for approval
 - Having some sort of event - city council, donors, etc. Everyone gets a charcuterie board from the downtown mall trees and maybe we get some financial support for doing this.
 - **Would be a use for that wood - and when more mall trees come down that would be a good use for them.**
 - **A mechanism for donations would be part of this ordinance.**
- Jarmena Landscapes (tree planting contractor) secured the watering contract for the city, watering activities will extend from June – October.
- Tree Planting Logistics will start July – August 2024 – RFQ issued September 2024 for fall planning.
 - Will be planting 160-180 trees this year
 - Plantings over the last few years:
 - 1st Year: Schools
 - 2nd Year: Schools & Parks
 - 3rd Year: Right of Ways

Dan: Non-Sewer Metering for water to encourage the public to water trees?

5:30–5:45 pm – New/Old Business:

- FY24 State of the Forest Committee (4-5 people)
- Gauging interest in presentations (to the TC): specific requests?

5:45–6:50 pm – Committee Reports:

- Arbor Committee (*D. Shaunesey*)
- Codes and Practices (*T. Mills*)
- Education & Advocacy (*S. McKinnon*)

6:50 pm – Items/Announcements Not on Agenda/Action Items for Next Meeting

General Public Comment

7:00 pm – Adjourn ^(†) At the discretion of the Chair, public comments related to particular agenda items may be solicited at that point in the meeting.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public meeting may call the ADA Coordinator at (434) 970-3182 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide a 48-hour notice so that proper arrangements may be made.