

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

November 4, 2024

5:00–7:00pm

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

Call to Order and Approval of April Minutes (*M. Tolbert*)

5:00–5:10pm

Staff Report (*S. Gaines*)

5:10–5:30pm

— Grant Update: The City has officially hired Eocene Environmental Group to update the city's urban forestry management plan

— The city has hired for the 2024 fall tree planting. 130-140 trees will be planted along city rights of way, schools, parks (deadline Christmas week). Locations for tree installations and associated maps have been created, maps available on request

— Invasive Plant Control Update:

- Herbicide treatments have been performed at every project location (Fall 2023-present)
- Ground covers (warm season grasses/forbs) installed at every project location
- Survivability rate of seedlings averages around 60%. Replacements installed at larger project areas this fall by contractors (Fry's Spring, Jordan Park, and Forest Hills). Smaller plantings (Azalea, Oakwood Cemetery, Washington Park, Quarry Park, and Free Bridge) will be re-planted by volunteers in spring 2025.
- New Projects with a focus on vine removal/treatments (Disc Golf Course, Greenleaf Park) will begin Late October – Early November. Forestry Mulching on Butterfly Greenway will begin early 2025.

— The City of Charlottesville (Dept of Environmental Sustainability) applied for a grant with Piedmont Housing Alliance. Emphasis of the grant is environmental upgrading in housing projects, solar, agriculture, recreation, and tree installations.

— The City of Charlottesville (Historical Society/BAR) recently applied for a Historic Area Preservation Grant for the Downtown Mall. If selected the city will receive funding assistance for implementing Phase I of the Downtown Mall Tree Management Plan.

Discussion on Staff Report

5:30–5:40pm

Committee Reports + Action Items

5:40–6:10pm

- Arbor Committee – 10 minutes

- Fifeville Neighborhood Association Update
- Resolution for protecting (all) city trees?
- Codes and Practices – 10 minutes
 - Update on Stormwater work session
- Education & Advocacy – 10 minutes
 - CHIPP Report out
 - Update on web page
 - Wolf/Josey Letter of Support (see letter appended at the end of the agenda)

New/Old Business: STATE OF THE FOREST

6:10–6:50pm

- Laying out a structure for SOTF (MT/SM)
- Recommendations (come to agreement)
 - NDS Arborist request: Tree Removal Permits, Sleep slopes, early site plan review (on behalf of large-diameter shade trees)
 - Stormwater fee: changes to collection
 - Resolution: All City Trees Protected
 - Resolution: Sawmill/Nursery

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

6:45–6:50pm

General Public Comment

6:50–7:00pm

Adjourn

7:00pm

^(†) At the discretion of the Chair, public comments related to particular agenda items may be solicited at that point in the meeting. This virtual/electronic meeting is open to the public. You may participate electronically by registering at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/1077/Agendas-Minutes> or via telephone by using the number provided with the Zoom registration. Or you may contact staff at 434-970-3182 to receive the dial in number. In addition to the Zoom webinar, this meeting will be available on the City's streaming platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and www.charlottesville.gov/streaming.

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.

October 15, 2024

Caitlin Sylvester, Grant Coordinator
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
804-482-6461



RE: City of Charlottesville VA250/DHR Grant Fund Application

Dear Ms. Sylvester,

The City of Charlottesville's Tree Commission was established to advise and assist City Council, the Planning Commission, and City staff in the protection and preservation of trees in the public rights-of-way and to enhance the diversity and health of the City's tree canopy.

Stewardship of the trees on the Downtown Mall is an important component of the Commission's work and we strongly urge the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to provide the requested funds for the Downtown Mall Preservation and Rehabilitation Project.

Charlottesville's Downtown Mall opened to the public in 1976, and in the intervening years the Mall has become the vibrant heart of the City's historic district—a beloved destination for city residents and visitors alike. The success of the Downtown Mall is due to the brilliance of Lawrence Halprin's subtle design, which features the welcoming shade and lush greenery of its magnificent willow oaks.

However, after nearly five decades, the need for a comprehensive plan—to preserve the integrity of Halprin's design and to address the loss and decline of the willow oaks—has become critical.

The landscape architecture firm Wolf/Josey has presented its comprehensive plan for the Downtown Mall to the Tree Commission and other City agencies. It is an impressive long-range plan that, among other things, would rebuild the infrastructure that supports the trees; provide a highly detailed, phased sequence of tree removal, replanting, and care; enhance the visibility of the trees; and recenter access to Halprin's several fountains along the length of the mall.

The Tree Commission enthusiastically supports the Wolf/Josey comprehensive plan for the revitalization of Charlottesville's Downtown Mall. We urge you to support the preservation and rehabilitation of this historic resource in Charlottesville. If you have any questions, please contact us at the emails below. Thank you for considering Charlottesville's grant request.

Sincerely,
MaKshya Tolbert, Chair, Charlottesville Tree Commission
tolbert.makshya@gmail.com

Susan McKinnon, Vice Chair, Charlottesville Tree Commission
susanmmckinnon@gmail.com