

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

January 7th, 2025

5:00–7:00pm

In-Person Meeting–Parks & Recreation Office
501 E Main Street
(Downtown Mall, Adjacent to Market Street Parking Garage)

Call to Order and Approval of December Minutes (*M. Tolbert*) **5:00–5:10pm**

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

Continued work on Invasive Plant Control/Containment Strategy on City Properties:

- Mulching at Butterfly Greenway (approximately 9 acres) has been concluded.
- Contractors have replanted tubed trees that died across all restored management areas (exceptions: Free Bridge and Quarry Park).

Next Steps for Restorations:

- Seeding and pre-emergent herbicides applied late winter/early spring at Tonsler Park hillside (behind baseball field, approx. 1.5 acres), slopes along JW Parkway (Bradford pears), Park Street bridge.
- Pollinator plots drilled/seeded along JW Parkway early spring (between railroad and JW Parkway).

RFQ to install 133 trees around the city limits, focus on Rights-of-Way and highway interchanges. Installations to begin early January will conclude by Feb 1.

Discussions with Eocene continuing, next meeting Jan 9. Currently looking at timing for Tree Canopy analysis and volunteer training (these are the first priorities regarding our schedule for the Urban Forest Management Plan).

Downtown Mall Tree Pruning – Operations begin January 13, planning for 5 days' worth of tree work. Parks & Recreation has issued press releases and offered walk-and-talk discussions in October that were well attended.

Parks & Recreation requests 1-2 volunteers from Tree Commission to sit on the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Committee. This will entail one Zoom meeting per year to discuss the City's use of pesticides/herbicides over the calendar year. Next meeting late January / early February 2025.

Discussion on Staff Report **5:30–5:40pm**

Tree Commission Elections (*S. Gaines*)**5:40-6:10pm**

- Expectations of Chair/Vice Chair
 - Monthly agenda planning meeting
 - Coordination with Steven Gaines and subcommittee chairs
 - Monthly Tree Commission meeting facilitation
 - State of the Forest (facilitation, project management, writing, etc.)
 - Liaising with City officials in advisory role and for informational purposes
- Election of Chair
- Election of Vice Chair

New/Old Business: FY24 State of the Forest (*M. Tolbert*)**6:10–6:50pm**

- 2025 Calendar
- Revisiting bylaws in January 2025
 - Volunteers to discuss bylaw amendments?
 - Possible amendment topics for bylaws committee:
 - Secretary?
 - # of meetings per year?
 - Communications?
 - Hybrid meetings?
 - Anything else?
- SOTF – Presentation Jan 21
 - Can members of the public attend?
 - Letters of support for second Urban Forester (from CATS, ReLeaf, RCA)?
- Recruitment:
 - Need to add one “At-Large” Tree Commission Vacancy to [city application page](#) (Applications due Feb 1)
 - Invite people to apply: [2025 Tree Commission Application Link](#)

Committee Reports + Action Items (*M. Tolbert*)**6:50-6:55pm**

- Arbor Committee
- Codes and Practices
- Education & Advocacy

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

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