

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

January 7th, 2025

5:00–7:00pm

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

Present: Makshya Tolbert, Katie Lockhart, Tyler Miller, Woody Parrish, JD Brown, Donna Shaunesey, Susan McKinnon, Betsy Roettger, Shanti Levy, Steven Gaines, Eric Bredder

Visitors: Bailey Pleasant, Jean Lee Gazin, RCA

Call to Order and Approval of December Minutes – approved **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 9th. 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/Rec has issued press releases and offered walk-and-talk discussions in October that were well attended. No removals, just pruning failing limbs.

Parks/Rec requests 1-2 volunteers from Tree Commission to sit on the IPM Board (Integrated Pest Management). This will entail 1 Zoom meeting per year to discuss the City's use of pesticides/herbicides over the calendar year. Next meeting late January 2025. Makshya and Tyler volunteered to go.

Steven is looking for a replacement intern. Position will be posted shortly.

Tree Commission Elections (*S. Gaines*)

- Susan McKinnon was elected Chair
- Shanti Levy was elected Vice Chair

New/Old Business: FY24 State of the Forest

- 2025 Calendar – The Commission approved the following by-laws change: “ if the regularly scheduled date falls on a holiday, the Commission may choose to move the meeting to the next available day.” There was some discussion about having a task calendar as well.
- Revising bylaws. Betsy volunteered to go through the Planning Commission’s bylaw and make suggestions for the Commission’s approval at the February meeting. Tyler, Makshya and Susan will help, too. Topics include having a secretary, the number of meetings per year, hybrid meetings, allowing for subcommittee meetings as an alternative to meeting every month, exploring alternatives to having elections in January since the January to March period is before new folks join us. We also need to check to see if Council needs to weigh in on the by-laws. Make sure the language around “ex officio” and “staff support” is consistent.
- Presentation Jan 21, 4 pm, public meeting. Combining the work session and the State of the Forest. Need a show of support. Some discussion of getting in-person and letters of support (from CATS, ReLeaf, RCA, CHIPPS) for the 2nd Forester. Susan will share the SOTF with those groups.
- Recruitment – city’s website is corrected to note it’s 2 At-Large members. Folks are encouraged to recruit for these positions.

Committee Chairs and members – to be decided in February

- Arbor - ? Chair, Makshya,
- Codes and Practices – JD Chair, Tyler
- Education & Advocacy – Eric Chair, Woody,