

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

August 5, 2025

5:00 – 7:00 pm

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

In-Attendance:

MaKshya Tolbert
Hannah Brown
Woody Parrish
Steven Gaines

Visitor:

Ruth Shatkay

Call to Order (S. Levy) and Approval of July Minutes (S. Levy) **5:00-5:05**
Meeting Called to order at 5:08pm and July minutes approved.

Staff Report and Discussion (S. Gaines) **5:05-5:45**

Urban Forest Management Plan - Update

- Staff has received TC comments regarding Eocene and have had internal meetings discussing next steps.
- Eocene has received staff comments regarding summary documents of study.
- Staff is investigating next steps regarding the Urban Forest Management Plan and available funding.
- Meeting with Eocene this Thursday, August 7pm, to discuss staff comments.
- If Eocene is able and willing, the City will likely keep them on to develop an updated Management Plan less inclusive than the original grant.
- Tree Commission comments captured in staff feedback.
- Ongoing draft revisions will attempt to capture the crucial need to preserve the trees we have amid limited plantable property;

Invasive Plant Control Update

- Rx Fire to resume forestry mulching/herbicide treatments/pollinator installations/tree installations in late summer/fall 2025.
- After September 15, more mulching and plantings will commence with Rx Fire. After pollinators have mostly moved through.
- Charlottesville is now a 'Bee City' which should open up funding opportunities.
- Trying out some new Japanese knotweed treatments (Tonsler Park primarily). Will cut and then try to install groundcover.
- Monitoring plantings at Fry's Spring.

Garrett and Second Street Updates

- Parks and Recreation (in cooperation with ReLeaf Cville, UVA School of Architecture, and Piedmont Housing Alliance) has hired Keith Pitchford to assist with Tree Preservation planning for the Kindlewood Redevelopment Project.

- Parks Staff (and TC representative) met with NDS staff to discuss Garrett Street Tree letter and potential change to site plan procedures in regard to tree preservation.
- Received NDS feedback on the letter re: Garrett Street. Moving forward, discussions on changes to best management practices re: site planning and tree preservation project. More discussions are planned between TC and NDS.

Tree Planting Fall 2025

- Staff will be compiling maps for tree installations city wide. Project RFQ released by Sept 15, 2025, for installations to occur by early January 2026.
- Heavy plantings at schools, parks, ROWs. Mostly balled and burlap plantings. About 18% mortality over the last year.

Downtown Mall Trees

- Staff to inspect all trees on the Mall in August 2025; will expect annual tree pruning early Jan 2026.
- Getting set now to figure out how much pruning will need to happen in January. No removals expected.

New/Old Business

5:45-6:15

- Update and follow-through on Tree Commission Recruitment and Selection (*All*)
5 applicants for 4 spots. Planning for October meeting with new members.
 - Update on Teams Set-up (*S. Gaines*) More of us are gaining access. We're able to make new folders. Changes are coming.
 - SOTF 2022, 2023, 2024 now uploaded to TC website! Confirmed.
 - Planning for meeting with Kellie Brown at Sept TC meeting (*All*) TC will prepare internal notes in preparation for September meeting.

Committee Reports

6:15-6:55

- Arbor Committee (*M. Tolbert, S. Levy, and H. Brown*)
- Codes & Practices Committee (*JD Brown, Tyler Miller, Betsy Roettger*)
- Education & Advocacy Committee (*S. McKinnon, W. Parrish*)
- Update on CHIPP activities: Continuing outreach. The city has 40ish HOAs; Could be useful for bigger ones: Willoughby, Riverbluff, and Locust Meadows Common Area. Invasives removal could mobilize tree planting and preservation efforts. Locust Meadows could be an interesting candidate for residential and HOA wetland projects (re: invasives species and/or endangered species)

Items/Announcements Not on Agenda General Public Comment

6:55-7:00

Adjourn

7:00