
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | OCTOBER 4, 2023

PRESENT: Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher,
Zack Dorner, Kathryn Kutzner

ABSENT:

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Deborah Taylor

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm.

- 1) Gloria moved to approve the September minutes with minor changes suggested by Dawn. Zack seconded the motion, and the September minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)
No illegal removals, four permits approved and four permits outstanding.

A side discussion: Taylor mentioned that he heard that Beech trees may be in decline. Dawn is going to investigate. Red Oaks are now also on the decline. We need to educate people about the importance of keeping trees watered during dry spells. Casey Trees can send an alert about watering your trees if you sign up for it. Dawn mentioned that they are planting trees with a type vermiculite, which absorbs water to help keep trees fed during drought. We discussed the difference between ball and burlap trees vs. trees in containers, and their root health

- 3) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112
Taylor read the Redacted Ordinance that Dawn sent to us and we approved comments as he read them out loud.

112-3 B. "Assist the City's city arborist" should change to "Hyatsville's City Arborist."

112-4 D. Check for consistency of capitalization of City Arborist. It should be capped for consistency.

112-4 E. Taylor questioned topping a dying tree, which creates habitat for wildlife.

Gloria motioned to pass the revisions to the ordinance, Taylor seconded and the motion was passed unanimously

Dawn will move the ordinance forward now that recommended revisions have been approved by the board.

4) New Business

Agenda Discussion Items for November meeting:

Discuss the revision of application of permit...specifically adding the line about whether the applicant is going to plant a replacement tree or pay the fine.

Discuss ideas about what to do moving forward once ordinance is passed...education programs, community involvement, etc.

Revisit the heritage tree program or something similar

Thank You to Deborah for joining us as a guest this evening.

Randy will not be able to attend the November meeting and Zack offered to step in as secretary for this meeting. Thank You!!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, AT 7:30 PM.**