
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | AUGUST 7, 2024

PRESENT: Zack Dorner, Kyla Gallagher, Randy Fletcher, Dawn Bohls, Deborah Taylor, Kathryn Kutzner, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Taylor Johnson, John Healy (*new member*)

ABSENT:

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s):

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm.

John Healy (new member) introduced himself to the shade tree board, and the board members briefly introduced themselves to John.

There was a discussion about the beginning of the tree board. There have been 4 chairs of the tree board. The first chair was Dr. Ray Weil. He and his wife, Trish, were the movers that asked Gloria to join in the effort to create a tree ordinance. The Weil's still live in Hyattsville and can be credited for the creation of this protective tree ordinance. The initial Hyattsville model was based on the existing Takoma Park ordinance. It took almost a year to get enacted.

1) Approval of the July 2024 Minutes

Dawn Taft suggested a couple minor changes to the minutes. Randy motioned to approve the July minutes with these changes and they were approved.

2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

Permits for 031 and 032 were approved. Permit 033 is outstanding.

3) New Business

(Old business) We have talked about brainstorming ideas for new/community events, outreach, and education. Zack suggested creating a shared google doc. The shared google doc will allow board members to contribute to this list and refer back to it at their leisure.

The 10th Annual Green Summit, sponsored by the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, will be held on October 19th at Driskell Park. The application for sponsoring a table is due at the end of August. We will discuss what give aways (rain gauges?), games, and information to have available at the September board meeting. Dawn Bohls, John Healy,

and Kyla Gallagher have offered to help man the table. We can plan time slots for manning the table at the next meeting. Zack motioned to move forward with this event, and the board approved.

Revisions to the Tree Ordinance. Dawn spoke to Danny Schaible and he is willing to put the ordinance recommendations in front of the council. We (the board) need to be sure that we are all in agreement with the ordinance changes we are recommending. We should review the draft before the next meeting. The draft of the ordinance will be on the google drive, and board members can mark up any changes on the doc, or email changes to Dawn.

Dawn and one tree board member may be able to present the draft at the council meeting on October 21st or November 4th, Between 7:00 and 9:00 pm. The council may have questions and then the draft will go to Legal. Dawn Taft will put a *draft summary* together and post it on the shared google drive.

Kyla asked Dawn if there is anything we can do to provide information about trees (planting) since we are getting closer to planting season. Residents can request to have a tree planted in the right-of-way. They can also request not to have anything planted in the right-of-way. The free tree program is coming to an end for planting on private property. Dawn suggested getting out general information about the ordinance and the tree board. What do residents want to know about trees? How do we help trees that need assistance? Should we do a poll to see what residents want to know about? Kyla suggested that Instagram might be a good source. Kyla may ask Krissi Humbard about creating a poll and tracking on Instagram. We need approval before moving forward. We need to develop this idea. The question was also raised about raising funds for the tree board or a specific event? Dawn will ask and confirm at the next meeting.

Katy mentioned the listserv and asked if there is information we can provide to the public such as drought, how to water (26 gallons of water per week on newly planted trees), signs of stress on trees, how to manage/mitigate stress. Dawn will talk to Cindy about sending out information on the listserv.

Dawn plugged getting apartment complexes to agree to free tree plantings and has gotten approval from five complexes.

The environment committee meets for an hour and a half. We can talk about increasing our meeting time at the next meeting.

We will discuss having a fall event at Hitching Post Hill at the September meeting.

4) **Public Comment**

None.

The meeting ended at 8:38 pm.

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, AT 7:30 PM.**