
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JULY 1, 2022

PRESENT: Randy Fletcher, Millard Smith, Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Zack Dorner

ABSENT: Keondra Freemyn

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Danny Schaible (Ward 2 Council member and Tree Board Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

- 1) The minutes from the June 2022 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

Nine (9) permits approved, including the Sycamore that we thought would be denied by a 3rd party inspection. The English ivy on this tree prevented a thorough investigation, though there was evidence of an anomaly.

No Illegal removals!

- 3) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112 Urban Forest—

112-4.2A Change (75) inches to (35) inches in circumference.

Side Discussion:

About replacement trees....Zach Dorner thought the canopy metric for replacement is good and should be kept in the document. We should develop a matrix to share so people can refer to examples for replacement. Zach brought up plot size and wondered whether it should dictate species/size of replacement.

Taylor brought up the application document. The application should include information on the replacement of trees upfront. Will the resident be replacing a tree(s), or will they be donating money to the city for planting. He thought that the applicant should fill out a replacement form and include it, and a check, with the application. A recommended tree list could also be included to help facilitate the replacement of a tree.

Gloria mentioned that some people will pay by credit card, and that if they paid in advance, the city would have to credit the applicant back. These details will be nailed down next meeting.

Smitty mentioned that we need to set up a specific tree fund, so that money from fines, donations, and other sources could be tracked easily.

Danny mentioned that we don't want the standard practice to be removing a large tree only to replace it with a smaller, ornamental tree. A better policy may be replacing with small, medium, and large canopy trees to match what was removed.

Dawn suggested creating a subcommittee to work on the options chart to hammer out the preliminary details and bring it back to the board for review in August. The Board Chair (G. Taylor Johnson) appointed Zach Dorner to lead the subcommittee and Danny Schaible and he will work with Zach to create the new replacement scale.

112-4.2B Approved change.

112-4.2B1-2 The new matrix will replace this copy.

112-4.2B1A We discussed the language “recently planted” trees and wondered if we need to be more specific. Dawn thought that trees planted within 1-2 years would be appropriate and could be considered a replacement tree. She thought that we could also make a determination by diameter or height of the tree.

Taylor wanted to include new language... Recently planted appropriate trees may be accepted. The replacement tree should have the same appropriate canopy to the removed tree. Smitty recommend that prior to replacement, the applicant could get approval from the city on the tree they intend to plant.

Part of the new language for this section should include:

Tree selection should be in accordance with matrix.

1- Recently planted appropriate trees may be accepted.

2- Keep it technical and refer to section (112.5), which immediately follows this section.

- 4) **New Business**—Smitty wanted to know if the recommended tree list going to include tree canopy size. Invasive removal: Hyattsville aging in place needs volunteers to help remove ivy. The city will send out information and will seek recruits. ...Create an ivy squad. Dawn wants to discuss: *a solution for emergencies* at the next meeting!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, AT 7:30 PM.**