

# SHADE TREE BOARD MINUTES

November 5, 2025, at 7:30pm, via Zoom

Present: Zachary Dorner, Dawn Bohls, Kyla Gallagher, Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson

Staff: Dawn Taft

Visitor(s): Councilmember Greg Barnes

## Meeting in session at 7:46 PM

- 1) Approval of the previous October 2025 minutes
  - a. Made update to formatting and updated an incomplete sentence.
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, illegal removals - Dawn Taft
  - 5 Approvals:
    - TD25-044 & TP25-045
      - These were evaluated by a 3rd party. They determined that the trees were not able to be pruned to a level that is low risk. They suggested cabling or other supports, but the resident didn't want the tree in the first place, and therefore the permits were approved.
    - TP25-062, 063, 067
  - 1 On hold
    - TP25-052 is on hold until spring
  - 3 N/A
    - TP25-064, 065, 066 were N/A
  - 4 Outstanding
    - TP25-068 - 071 are outstanding
  - No illegal removals.
  - Multiple hazards have been flagged.
- 3) Old Business
  - a. Comms updates
    - i. John Healy is not here, so no comms update.
  - b. Discuss getting the revised tree ordinance to a vote at City Council
    - i. Nate assured CM Barnes that the ordinance is in review. There is no concrete timeline for the review to be back, but will likely be before the end of the year.
  - c. Discuss "toolkits" for board members
    - i. Mulching flyers would be helpful for tree board members to have on hand to support messaging around Hyattsville.

1. The previously made postcards on this were high quality, but were supported by a grant with Casey tree which is no longer available.
- ii. Vine removal information that includes why it's important to remove vines
- iii. Watering information, given the current drought conditions, to reduce risk to trees turning their roots up seeking water. Hydrated trees do better through cold winters.
  1. Idea shared to include this in the next Hyattsville Reporter. This likely won't go out until December which might be past the watering need, but the importance of getting information into every home was pertinent.
- iv. Rain gauges are helpful tools
- v. Proper pruning to reduce sucker growth
- vi. Dawn Taft's time is limited, so the flyers may take some time to pull together
  1. She has a few of these flyers available already, and they are linked on the website.
- vii. Flyer about tree removal permits could be helpful to have as well
- viii. We could do QR codes or web links with descriptions underneath for all the various scenarios we want to alert people about
  1. Casey Tree gives watering alerts as well that we could link people to as well.
- ix. Dawn can send out the old "report card" thing so we can see if someone wants to try to update/modify it for use.

#### 4) New Business

- a. Adopt 2026 Shade Tree Board calendar
  - i. Reviewed 1st Wednesday of every month for 2026 and compared to holiday calendars.
  - ii. No need for shifts due to holidays or other conflicts
  - iii. The calendar was adopted as it stands.
- b. PG County real estate documents
  - i. Will be moved to next month to allow for more participation.
- c. Reminder that board elections during January meeting
  - i. Zack can remain on the board but can no longer be chair
  - ii. Question if Taylor was chair previously, can he do it again
  - iii. Don't want people to get stuck as chair, hence term limits
  - iv. Discussion about the previous history of board chairs and secretaries
- d. There is grant funding for invasive vine removal in specific areas in Hyattsville
  - i. Affected areas: University Park Duck Pond & 38th Ave/West Hyattsville Area
  - ii. Social media announcements are going out from the city, and there is a link on the website where constituents can check if they are in the covered area or not
  - iii. Dawn can share the map and more information about the covered areas
  - iv. The areas covered are income-limited

- v. Will be restarting 1st Saturdays invasive vine removal on private property, and 3rd Saturdays will be forest maintenance invasive vine removal
- vi. Have saved over 100 trees so far, which has positively impacted stormwater control and carbon emissions

- 5) Public Comment (comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person)
  - a. No attendees at this meeting

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 PM**