

## Tree Commission

### March 2021 Minutes

**Date:** March 10, 2021

**Time:** 5:00PM – 7:00PM

**Location:** Remotely via Zoom meeting

**Attending:** Paul Josey, Brian Menard, Anson Parker, Tim Padalino, Mark Zollinhofer, Mark Rylander, Peggy Van Yahres, Jeff Pacelli, Jody Lahendro, Jeff Jennings

**Absent:** Emily Cone-Miller,

**Staff:** Mike Ronayne, Lucy Hartley

**Attendees:** Jean Umiker Sebeok, Kendra Hall, Matt Alfele, Sean Tubbs, Vicki Metcalf

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

#### **February Minutes Corrections –**

Peggy motions to approve the minutes as presented. Jody seconds, none opposed.

#### **CIP Request Update – Brian M., Peggy**

Peggy represented the group at the council and Planning Commission joint session on the CIP. The Tree Commission decided at the session to brief the group on the emerald ash borer situation rather than ask for funding and stressed the importance of tree planting. The Planning Commission suggested they would like to see additional funding for tree planting. Next year the Tree Commission would like a formal proposal to address the emerald ash borer trees.

#### **Tree Commission members terms – Brian M.**

3 terms will be ending March 31<sup>st</sup> and there were 8 applicants for the openings. The commission will make recommendations based on need. Emily and Jeff Jennings will need to reapply. Lynn Rush has stepped off the commission and that position will be filled next quarter.

#### **Staff Presentation – Lucy Hartley**

Lucy is the Program Specialist for Parks & Rec. She reviews some of the work they have done prior to the pandemic and how they have adjusted. There is a focus on extending outdoor programs and incorporating schools aftercare programs. Different ideas are exchanged how the program may be able to expand work with i-naturalist as was done in the tree photo safari, camp holiday trails and school grounds mapping projects.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education and Advocacy Committee - Peggy**

This fall the subcommittee would like to work with CATS to install a few trees, a book tree and bench in the 10<sup>th</sup> and Page neighborhood. In 2022 the group would like to do more public outreach and education. The group is also interested in getting trees installed as part of the Franklin Street project. The group also would like to explore planting trees at Michie Drive on CRHA property.

### **Arbor Day – Peggy**

The group would like to have Arbor Day at Walker-Upper Elementary School on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. CATS will also be holding a Notable Trees ceremony at Maplewood cemetery later that day to celebrate the post oak.

### **Nominees for Tree Conservation Ordinance – Brian M.**

A map of the trees exists on the City's Green Map under the natural resources tab but the commission would like to see the trees on the Tree Commission page. City staff will include the trees there.

The six trees were up for nomination last year but the process was tabled as a result of the pandemic. Moving forward the 6 trees for consideration are the large elm at Clark, the post oak in Maplewood, the sycamore at the Riverview trail, the Shumard oak at the 250 Bypass and a large southern red oak in Oakwood cemetery. Paul motions to submit the trees for ordinance protection to City council. Peggy seconds, none opposed.

## **Codes and Practices Committee**

### **NDS/PW April Presentation – Tim**

The subcommittee has drafted questions to address reoccurring issues within the site plan review process and enforcement regarding trees. The subcommittee would like to meet with staff prior to the April meeting. Mike will check availability of staff.

The group has not had much direction from the Comp. plan or code update yet.

### **Arborist Report – Mike**

### **Canopy Study RFQ**

The anticipated flyover imagery needed for the 2020 study was not performed by the USDA. Mike is waiting to hear back about a price to buy leaf-on aerial imagery from a private satellite company. Mike will keep the group in the loop and lay out all options when he has more information.

**Mall Tree Study**

Mike will bring a draft of the Mall Tree Study to share with the commission to the April meeting.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Other Items Not on Agenda**

This is Paul's last meeting before coming to the end of the Tree Commission and he is held in high praise for his professionalism and expertise he has brought to the commission.

**Meeting Action Items:**

- members will form recommendations among new applicants
- Mike will notify VDOF, get the proclamation and items for Arbor Day
- Staff will put a list of ordinance protected trees onto Tree Commission webpage
- Mike will bring a Mall Tree Study draft next month

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.