

CHARLOTTESVILLE TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Virtual|Electronic Meeting

AGENDA

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| Call to Order & Chair Report (<i>B. Menard</i>) | 5:00 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve April Minutes• Update on Tree Nominations & Bylaws | |
| Plans for McIntire Park (<i>Jill Trischman-Marks, McIntire Botanical Garden; P. Van Yahres, The Grove; Robin Hanes, CATS</i>) | 5:10 |
| Committee Reports | 5:40 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education & Advocacy (<i>P. Van Yahres</i>)• Arbor (<i>P. Van Yahres</i>)• Codes & Practices (<i>T. Padalino</i>) | |
| Arborist Report (<i>M. Ronayne</i>) | 6:15 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerald Ash Borer Plan• Integrated Pest Management Report (<i>P. Hagan</i>)• Canopy Study Decision• Mall Tree Study RFP | |
| General Public Comment ^(f) | 6:40 |
| Items/Announcements Not on Agenda | 6:45 |
| Action Items for Next Meeting | 6:55 |
| Adjourn | 7:00 |

^(f) At the discretion of the Chair, public comments related to particular agenda items may be solicited at that point in the meeting.

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Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public meeting may call the ADA Coordinator at (434) 970-3182 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide a 48-hour notice so that proper arrangements may be made.

Tree Commission

April 2021 Minutes

Date: April 6, 2021

Time: 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Location: Remotely via Zoom meeting

Attending: Brian Menard, Tim Padalino, Mark Zollinhofer, Mark Rylander, Peggy Van Yahres, Jeff Pacelli, Jody Lahendro, Jeffrey Aten, Vicki Metcalf, Jean Umiker Sebeok

Absent: Anson Parker

Staff: Mike Ronayne, Todd Brown, Missy Creasy, Jack Dawson

Attendees: Molly Conger, Patrick Punch

Guests: Amanda Nelsen

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

March Minutes Corrections –

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

Call to Order, Chair Report and Welcome New Members – Brian M.

Welcome New Members

Jeff Aten is a Landscape Architect in town who is also a former member of the Parks Advisory board and is looking forward to serving the community.

Vicki Metcalf is a naturalist looking forward to serving and is concerned about canopy loss and canopy loss in underserved neighborhoods.

Jean Umiker Sebeok is a long-term gardener who wants to serve to help get trees to neighborhoods and places where they are needed most.

Early next month Brian will be providing a presentation to the Sierra Club per a request.

There is also now a workspace in MS Teams. The group still needs to coordinate what order and how documents will be uploaded.

Six trees went to council Monday evening for consideration for further protection under ordinance. Another reading is required but the only comment received was questions of why all trees aren't important. The Tree Commission would like to expand the list of protected trees.

Fossil Flora, UVA art/climate Project – Amanda Nelsen

Amanda is working with students to use single-use plastics to create art to hang from trees and hopes to hang them from City trees in an effort to raise awareness for single use plastics and climate change. The group is supportive of the message and the project.

NDS/PW Presentation and Discussion – Tim Padalino, Missy Creasy, Jack Dawson

After collaborating with staff, the Codes and Practices Committee was able to arrive at 6-10 priority items to work on. The code review through the C'vill Plans Together project will be the first complete rewrite of the zoning code since 2003. The subcommittee will wait for guidance of either repeal and replace or tweaking and will provide comments.

Committee Reports

Arbor Day 2021 – Peggy, Arbor Committee

Arbor Day will now be held on Thursday, April 29th 2021 at Walker-Upper Elementary School. With help from teacher Nancy Smith, the group will be celebrating at the row of street trees planted along the Gentry Ln. side.

Low Canopy Neighborhood Projects – Peggy, Education and Advocacy Committee

For this year, the group is looking to work with CATS to put a reading tree, small tree planting and a bench in the 10th and Page neighborhood. Next year the group wants to plant more trees in low income neighborhoods. CATS could do the planting with volunteers, Parks & Rec. staff could help with the education component and the group is still looking for an organization to receive the funding. Peggy proposes that the group meets soon.

Arborist Report - Mike

Canopy Study Update

Mike found that the scale of the 2020 imagery to be purchased was inconsistent with previous canopy studies and would likely show discrepancies. Mike will wait a couple more weeks to hear back from other people in the industry before a decision is made how to move forward.

Mall Tree Study Draft

General comments are provided from the group. There is concern over having an emphasis on the tree replacement strategies over other Mall components and infrastructure. A committee will work with Mike to provide feedback.

Public Comment

None.

Other Items Not on Agenda

On Arbor Day April 30th at 2PM CATS will also be holding a ceremony at the post oak in Maplewood cemetery. On April 30th Dominion Energy will be also hosting a tree planting with a Girl Scout troop in lower Washington Park.

Meeting Action Items:

- Codes and Practices Committee will provide comments for code rewrite
- Group will provide comments for Mall Tree Study

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Charlottesville Parks and Rec. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Plan 2021-2026

Purpose: To guide ash tree removal, mitigation or other strategies to provide public safety, reduce potential conflicts, provide a beautiful forests and landscapes and to provide wildlife habitat.

Background: Emerald ash borer is an invasive insect from Siberia that is expected to kill approximately 100% of untreated ash trees. Our forests in Charlottesville are comprised of 1-2% ash (*Fraxinus spp.*). Unfortunately, locally ash trees occur in high frequency in some of our parks, particularly flood plains (e.g. Riverview, Disc Golf, Greenbrier Trail) where impacts will be considerable.

Beginning in 2016, approximately 31 of the city's largest, most valuable ash trees have been selected for preventative treatment. Costs and other prohibitive measures prevent all ash trees from being treated. Where trees are selected for treatment, the investment offsets the costs of removal and the community retains the benefits that the trees provide.

Anticipated Budget Impact

Approximately 300 trees still need to be removed creating an estimated need of \$480,600.00 to mitigate the situation over the next 5 years. The average cost per ash tree removed since fiscal year 2017 has been \$1602.00. This cost does not include additional tree planting to offset ash tree removal. It is important to note that the estimated number of 300 trees needed to be removed may increase as additional dying trees are discovered as the result of property lines and right-of-way variations are brought forward.

Since FY 2017 \$25,630.00 has been spent on ash tree removal which illustrates a growing need that is not being met.

To continue treating the 31 ash trees selected for retention cost an average of \$8,425.00 annually. To include treatments along with removal costs will bring the grand total for the next five years to \$522,725.00.

Removal Procedure for Dead and Dying Trees

Ash trees will be removed if they pose an unacceptable risk to people and property as defined by the ISA Tree Risk Assessment as the industry standard. Below is a proposed outline of how trees will be removed when dealing with EAB.

During periods of standard operation urban forestry budget (\$218,000.00 annually)

Dead and dying trees that are high and extreme risk will be scheduled for removal.

High and extreme risk will be defined as: Posing a likely or very likelihood of failure of impact and having a high or very high consequences of failure.

With additional \$50,000.00 annual funding to address EAB affected trees

Dead and dying trees that are extreme, high and moderate risk will be scheduled for removal.

With additional 100,000.00 annual funding to address EAB affected trees

Groups or clusters that contain living, dead or dying ash trees will be scheduled for removal that pose a moderate risk or greater.

Trees that pose low risk such as trees that are in forested, generally unused areas, will remain for wildlife and for EAB to run its course.

Woody Debris Disposal for EAB

Useable logs will be posted on the city's government surplus website to go out to the highest bidder so that the ash wood may be repurposed.

Where applicable, woody debris will remain in natural areas in a safe manner to provide wildlife cover.