



# THE TREE NEXT DOOR

*"An organization of neighbors dedicated to protecting Atlanta's tree canopy"*

**Meeting Minutes:** October 6, 2010

**Location:** Atlanta City Hall

Office of Peter Aman, COO

**Participants:** Peter Aman, COO

James Shelby, Planning Commissioner

Shel Schlegman, Chair TTND

*Mayoral Support:* Peter Aman said the Mayor was very supportive of protecting Atlanta's tree canopy.

*Arborist Staff:* Considerable discussion dealt with this topic. It was agreed that the findings of TTND re: fraudulent work reports would be investigated by Commissioner Shelby and that if corroborated, individuals would be dealt with in an appropriate manner including the possibility of them being fired.

It was pointed out that arborist staff was let go in accordance with City regulations and that after further budget analysis one field arborist David Tachon was re-hired.

*Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO) Clarification:* Shel Schlegman described the TPO as very difficult to understand and suggested that a user manual for home owners be written. The idea was enthusiastically received and Commissioner Shelby volunteered to make sure that happened. Shel suggested that the Tree Conservation Commission (TCC) be involved as well as TTND.

*Forestry Master Plan:* Discussion revolved around whether or not the City of Atlanta has lost or gained tree cover. It was decided that a Task Force be convened to discuss the issue. The TPO requires that the TCC assist the City Forester in the preparation of the Master Plan. The TCC along with Trees Atlanta, The Tree Next Door, Georgia Tech and others would be asked to participate in this task force.

*License tree Cutters:* Shel suggested that tree cutters be licensed by exam to prevent homeowners from being taken advantage of by unscrupulous cutters. It would protect trees that are not Dead, Dying or Hazardous (DDH) from being cut down w/o a permit. Peter is going to see if the State will allow licensing of tree cutters or perhaps just require a business license for cutters.