

Tree Conservation Commission
Work Session Minutes
City of Atlanta
Arborist Division, Suite 3800
Saturday, February 24, 2018
9:30a – 12:30p

Commissioners present: Nabil Hammam, Clara Kwon, Marvin Lampkin, Katherine Moore
Staff present: Kathy Evans, TCC staff

9:30a-10a

1. **Welcome.** Coffee and visiting.
2. **Review of January minutes.** Approved by all present (corrected date).
3. **Review Agenda.**
4. **Membership.** Reminder to complete BACE forms. Members would like to plan a social event at some point since meeting time is short.
5. **Arborist Division Update.** David Zapanick unable to attend.
6. **Hearing procedure/questions.** Review of procedures. Reminders to refer to ordinance as carefully as possible when discussing cases and making motions. Ask only questions and make statements relevant to issue at hand for economy of time.

10a-10:45

7. **General Discussion.**
 - Can the location of trees be considered when subdivisions are created? For example, could property lines be selected based on layout for least environmental impact?
 - Suggest that if setback variances were needed to preserve trees, this could be done in an early review.
 - Especially public projects that involve potential tree loss on public property should require early review/"ultra pre-review" to avoid conflict. Alterations to save trees are too difficult and expensive after significant public investment in design/planning.
 - N. Hammam suggests laying out subdivision footprints at time of subdivision approval. "Put puzzle together early" rather than passing on greater costs to individual builders/homeowners who build on each lot (that may have trees in center of lot that are subject to recompense). Also, this would avoid the current unintended incentive to destroy trees during the infrastructure stage in order to qualify for per-acre recompense. Is escrow an option? Fees could be returned if tree savings was greater than initial approval.
 - Tree preservation should be considered in the Zoning Code updates.
 - How to incentivize less lawn, more trees? (eg Athens, GA ordinance).
 - Contribution to land purchases where development is denser, modeled on wetland mitigation.

- Per K. Moore, GA Conservancy is interested in easements for groups of smaller parcels (rather than larger land areas). Model could transfer development rights for the wooded/canopied portion of contiguous lots. Could meet stormwater challenges, stabilize property values, and remove tax burden.
- Need to minimize hardscape in infrastructure to extent possible. Does tree loss data show patterns of tree loss and restoration in watershed/consent decree areas?

8. Outreach/Education. Brainstorm.

- **Native Trees and Surrounding Areas poster distribution plan.** ASLA, UGA, K. Moore's network.
- **Native Trees booklet.** Work with illustrator to expand species list. Transfer and expand poster information to booklet format.
- **2019 Calendar.** Great reception for 2018 calendar. Unanimous agreement to continue project – provides information that will be retained and referenced for a full year.
- **Water bill inserts.** Revisit. Ideas for inclusion: No need to rake; where to call for permits; planting season information about where to request trees, why to cut your ivy, don't hire tree cutter who solicits business without knowing credentials – license and insured. May need additional materials directed to seniors.

10:45a-11a **BREAK**

11a-noon

9. New Business/mark your calendar.

- May require two appeal hearings in March (March 21 and possibly March 28 if cases not resolved or scheduled for April). (Note: March 21- all but Moore available; March 28 – all available)
- City of Atlanta Canopy Update: Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7pm. TreeHouse: 112 Krog Street, Suite 7, Atlanta, GA

10. Old Business.