

Tree Conservation Commission

Business Meeting Minutes

City of Atlanta
City Hall
Arborist Division, Suite 3800
June 19, 2019

Commissioners present: Nabil Hammam, Marvin Lampkin, Bruce Morton

Members of public: Stephanie Coffin, Bobbie Wagoner

Staff present: Kathy Evans, TCC staff

1. **Minutes.** Review May 2019 business meeting minutes. Approved by those present.
2. **Membership.**
 - Clara Kwon, who has served in the Landscape Architect position since 2016 is resigning from the board, ending her term 6/17/19.
 - The Commission received resumes from two members interested in serving on the Commission:
 - Chet Tisdale, retired environmental attorney, Commissioners recommends appointing to the vacant lay citizen position.
 - Jack Cebe, Landscape Architect. Commissioners recommend forwarding resume to request official appointment for Registered Landscape Architect position, and to exercise its authority for a temporary appointment to the > 6-month vacancy for a botanist/forester, horticulturalist position.
 - VOTE re: above: All present in favor. Remainder of membership polled electronically 6/24-6/26/19. Unanimous in favor (Boles, Hammam, Lampkin, Moore, Morton, Richardson, Stuckey, and Ward).
3. **Arborist Division update.**
 - **Position** for field arborist remains open.
 - **Setback tree S.O.P.** discussed to follow up last month's discussion.
 - Proposed by Arborist Division: 50% or more of tree in setback would define setback tree.
 - TCC concerned that surveys are not typically accurate to this level of detail (trees are not shown to scale, but rather by an X, for example). Requesting extra steps to determine exact location could be costly and still difficult to determine. For example, would it be possible to determine within a few inches if a 20-inch tree is 10" vs. 11" over the setback? What if the trunk is not perfectly round?)
 - Contacted Parks Department regarding r.o.w. trees. Learned that under typical circumstances a tree survey is not required and the Parks Department errs on side of caution if a tree that is at least partially in r.o.w. requires removal.
 - Based on the understanding that *all* trees should be protected to the extent feasible on construction sites, the Commission members voted to define setback trees as trees that are partially or wholly within the setback. If any portion of the tree's trunk is in the setback, the tree should be saved or reviewed by the Tree Conservation Commission (or the pre-submittal team review once that process is implemented).
 - Section 158-104: *The city arborist shall require that improvements be located so as to result the protection of the trees on the site. It is the specific intent of this section to require that damage to trees located within the setback and required yard areas and to trees located on abutting properties owned by others be minimized to the greatest degree possible under the particular circumstances*

- Section 158-26: *Required yard area means the open space on a lot not occupied by a structure.*
- VOTE re: above: All present in favor. Remainder of membership polled electronically 6/24-6/26/19. Unanimous in favor (Boles, Hammam, Lampkin, Moore, Morton, Richardson, Stuckey, and Ward).

4. **Projects.**

- **Tree Canopy analysis for 2018.** Imagery in place (since Sept/Oct 2018). Still awaiting finalization of contract for analysis/report, which is pending approval.
- **Water bill** inserts about the requirement of tree permit is in June water bill and online. Commissioner question: Is there a way to prevent landscaping companies from blowing debris into storm sewers? In some neighborhoods it happens routinely.

5. **Urban Ecology Framework/Tree Ordinance Update.**

- **City Council Work Session (CDHR Committee).** The work session scheduled for today, June 19, is cancelled. Rescheduled for August 22, 11 am.
- Public comments regarding the June 3-6 presentations are due by July 17.
- **Resolution** was passed on Monday, June 17, establishing an early plan review of tree removal on certain sites. The resolution states that City Planning “shall establish a Pre-Submittal Team to conduct and coordinate [a] pre-submittal consultation in accordance with the City’s Tree Protection and Post Stormwater Development Codes” for sites “proposing land disturbance work, impacting setback or boundary trees, and identified for stormwater consultation” effective July 1, 2019.

6. **Old Business.**

- Presentation in April by Tamaria Letang, COA Plan Review Specialist, Sr. Would like to schedule follow up at later date. Please submit questions.
- Requested post-development stormwater presentation; not yet scheduled.

7. **New Business.**

- **One hearing** this month: June 19. Possibly will require two in July (July 17 and 24) unless some of the appeals we have received are resolved.