

Tree Conservation Commission

Business Meeting Minutes

City of Atlanta
City Hall
Arborist Division, Suite 3800
April 17, 2019

Commissioners present: Sarah Boles, Marvin Lampkin, Lawrence Richardson, Stephanie Stuckey, Elizabeth Ward

Staff present: Kathy Evans, TCC staff

1. **Minutes.** Review March business meeting minutes.
2. **Commission Membership.** Commissioners present agree that Co-chair is best format for leadership. Will poll those interested and take nominations via email.
3. **Arborist Division update.** Position for field arborist remains open.
4. **Brief Project updates.**
 - Canopy study – Imagery in place. Still awaiting finalization of pending contract.
5. **Urban Ecology Framework.**
 - Public meetings:
 - Tuesday, April 23, 6:30-8p at Cathedral of St. Philip, and
 - Wednesday, April 24, 6:30-8p, James Orange Recreation Center.
 - Reviewed and edited criteria for evaluation of comments regarding tree protection ordinance. Vote: unanimous – submit as comments to UEF.
 - Intro. *Updates to the existing tree protection ordinance are intended to optimize the long-term protection and sustainability of Atlanta's urban forest and other ecological resources as the city prepares to accommodate a rapidly growing population. The revision is intended to encourage sound development practices that minimize environmental impact while maximizing population density. Amendments to the ordinance will clean up ambiguities, reflect best practices, and support the goals established by the Urban Ecology Framework. Innovative and equitable solutions are highly encouraged. Draft criteria for filtering comments during public input process.*
 - Ecological: improves ecological health of the city.
 - Tree canopy: improves quality and quantity of Atlanta's tree canopy (goal \geq 50% canopy cover).
 - Best practice: reflects proven science or best practice.
 - Clarifying: minimizes ambiguity, clarifies existing regulations.
 - Efficiency: improves efficiency for permit applicants and City staff.
 - Legality: is enforceable and can survive legal challenge.
 - Value-added: long-term value to the community exceeds cost.
 - Mitigation: mitigates macro-level impact of micro (site-specific) decisions.
 - Growth: rewards practices that achieve higher population density with least environmental impact.
 - Funded: provides appropriate funding mechanism for implementation.
 - Equitable: addresses impact to low income property owners.
 - Non-transactional: structure should avoid payment-for-removal model.

6. **Tree appeals.** Allocate time for individuals to review appeal packets (4).
7. **Old Business.**
 - Presentation last month by Tamaria Letang, COA Plan Review Specialist, Sr. Would like to schedule follow up at later date. Will submit questions.
 - Requested post-development stormwater presentation; not yet scheduled.
 - Thanks for completing financial disclosure documents.
8. **New Business.**
 - **One hearing** this month: April 17. Expect two hearings in May (15 and 22). Reviewed availability (up to five Commissioners expect to be available for each hearing).