

MINUTES
Tree Conservation Commission
Business Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 4:45 pm

Topic: Tree Conservation Commission Business Meeting

Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 975 4440 0144 or [this link](#)

Dial In: 301-715-8592, access code, 97544400144#

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97544400144#success>

(Questions: call Kathy Evans, 404-330-6235)

Members present: Susanne Blam, Sarah Boles, Nabil Hammam, Peyton Peterson, Julia Skinner, and Chet Tisdale

Staff present:: Kathy Evans, Arborist Division, Office of Buildings.

1. **Arborist Division Staffing.** Arborist Plan Reviewer – new position still posted. This will be a fifth plan reviewer.
2. **Urban Forestry Grant.** Continuing to work on revisions to grant and budget narrative, and legislation to accept grant for \$5 million for the *City in a Forest: Protecting Atlanta's Legacy program* which will create the city's first comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan. Recent work includes meeting with data experts, identifying data needs; researching and meeting with social survey experts to evaluate community engagement methodology; and evaluating best practices for tree inventories in preparation for requesting quotes for r.o.w. tree inventory.
3. **SOP on trail installation.** Taryn Heidel, Sr. Parks Arborist, presented proposal of pilot for Tree Trust Fund Forest site at December Business Meeting. TCC reviewed edited draft and voted unanimously to support.
4. **Canopy Analysis.** Received approval this week of contract via Procurement process to authorize Georgia Tech (Center for Spatial Planning Analytics and Visualization) to begin analysis of canopy imagery obtained in October 2023.
5. **Appeal Hearing.** Schedule. Only hearing for January (January 17, 6:30 pm). Confirmed: Greer, Richardson, Boles. Tentative: Peterson.
6. **Tree Ordinance update.**
 - Phase 2 updates are being facilitated by Michael Elliot, Georgia Tech, is conducting stakeholder interviews. Tree Commission has not yet been contacted. N. Hammam reached out to Dr. Elliot, December 20, requesting a meeting with TCC prior to initiation of group meetings.
 - Received message from Andrew Walter, City of Atlanta, Planning Dept, Project Manager, (1/9/24) requesting that we hold the date (Thursday, Jan 25, 9a-11a) to begin stakeholder meetings, for K. Evans to represent Tree Commission, but she will be out of the country until February 12. S. Blam is also unavailable on that date. Need a representative. Message also indicated that Dr. Elliot will contact all stakeholders prior to Jan 25.
 - Will send list of topics to Dr. Elliot. Chet suggests reaching out to request meeting with TCC prior to stakeholder meetings. Agreement that K. Evans should attend to represent TCC, along with Nabil and/or Susanne, who may participate to offer expertise in design/building as well as trees.
7. **New Business.**
8. **Old Business.**