

MINUTES
Tree Conservation Commission
Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 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)

Present: Nabil Hammam, Marvin Greer, Lawrence Richardson, Julia Skinner, Susan Talburt

1. **Minutes.** No Business Meeting was held in February.
2. **Arborist Division Staffing.** Arborist Plan Reviewer – position for 5th plan reviewer remains open. Greg Ihle, Field Arborist, has left City employment. Opening for Field Arborist.
3. **Urban Forestry Grant.** Revision work continues. Nearing completion. Hope to finalize grant agreement by summer.
4. **Appeal Hearing.** Schedule. Only hearing for March (March 20). Attending: Nabil, Lawrence, Peyton, Susan, Julia (tentative).
5. **Quarterly Reports.** Reporting is being updated. Will make information much more accessible and timely. Will include and interactive dashboard.
6. **Tree Ordinance update.**
 - Stakeholder interview with Facilitator, Michael Elliott, was held Friday, January 16 (Nabil Hammam, Kathy Evans, and Taryn Heidel. We presented TCC’s primary concerns including:
 - need for greater tree protection to curb losses;
 - adjust recompense (which has not been updated since 2003);
 - re-evaluate “max” recompense formula as well as “standard” recompense; and 3) enforcement.
 - Phase 2, Tree Ordinance Update meetings are scheduled every other week (Thursday mornings, 2 hours) through May.
 - *Initial meeting (1/19/24).* Set ground rules. Group members should commit to attendance (and designate an alternate who is kept abreast of issues). Heard a presentation on Canopy analyses.
 - *Second meeting (2/2/24).* Heard a presentation on Heat Vulnerability in Atlanta. Facilitator presented a list of issues identified stakeholder interviews (Sept-Jan):
 - What trees should we protect/enhance?
 - What trees can be removed?
 - What constitutes appropriate replacement of approved trees?
 - Who pays? How much?
 - How do we equitably distribute the costs and benefits of trees and tree preservation?
 - How do we facilitate development while protecting trees?
 - How do we improve tree canopy in a rapidly developing city?
 - *Third meeting.* Scheduled for 3/21/24.
 - Discussed importance of tree canopy for cooling and reducing heat vulnerability, morbidity, and mortality.
7. **New Business.**
8. **Old Business.** Briefly discussed prescriptions, priority trees, boundary trees.