

**MINUTES**  
Tree Conservation Commission  
Business Meeting  
Tuesday, August 20, 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)

**ATTENDING:** Peyton Peterson, Susan Talburt, Sarah Boles, Chet Tisdale, Lawrence Richardson, Nabil Hammam, Marvin Greer

Staff: Kathryn Evans, TCC

Visitors: Elizabeth Beak, Rebecca Gilbert

1. **Minutes.** Review March 19 minutes. Business mtgs not held during June and July. N. Hammam and K. Evans attended ordinance working group meetings and conferred with S. Blam who represented the Commission in Phase 1 working group. Approved by all present.
2. **Arborist Division Staffing.** The Arborist Division has now filled the vacant positions and has full staffing. David Gennaro is in the 5<sup>th</sup> plan reviewer position. Ford Hester is the new Field Arborist, in the position previously occupied by Greg Ihle.
3. **Tree Conservation Commission Membership.** Julia Skinner has served two years and will leave her position on the Commission. She is interested in helping with projects and open to returning to serve again if her schedule allows. Other individuals who are interested? Susan Talburt away in October and November.
4. **Urban Forestry Grant.** Legislation to accept the grant was finalized at the beginning of this month and we expect the grant agreement to be finalized imminently. First steps include advertising for new positions to support the grant work, producing the Scope of Work for the Tree Inventory, and creating an Advisory Committee.
5. **Education Coordination with Trees Atlanta.** Review upcoming educational events and discuss coordination of events for 2025, especially programming supported by Tree Trust Funds. (TA Education Staff: Rebecca Gilbert-worked for 20 years as environmental educator; Elizabeth Beak - Worked in COA, Resilience). Discussed various programming. TreeKeeper program (will add session on tree ordinance/City of Atlanta). Beltline Arboretum Tours, N'hood Arborieta. New one in Atlanta Memorial Park. Goal: all four quadrants and bilingual. 2025: New Tours: Beltline (NE, SE, and Soutside trail; Sylvan Hills Neighborhood Arboretum. Workshops and Field Trips. Some in Spanish and English. Forest Bathing in Westside Park. Watercolors and wildflowers. Mason Mills in Spanish. Chattahoochee nature Center. Journaling at Carter Center. Future: discuss school programming/planting. Discuss speaker series as applies to public input to TCC. Refer those interested in serving on Commission.  
Susan T: How to educate people who lose a tree? Explore planting program for those who lose a tree. TA and TCC will meet twice per year. Next meeting January 2025 Business Meeting.
6. **Appeal Hearing.** Schedule. We have two hearings this (August 21 and August 28, 2024, 6:30 pm). Confirm attendance **tomorrow:** Nabil, Susan, Peyton, Lawrence, and Marvin. **Aug 28:** Nabil, Peyton, Lawrence, Sarah.
7. **Quarterly Reports.** Reporting is still be finalized and dashboard will be available soon.

8. **Tree Ordinance update.**

- Phase 2, Tree Ordinance update meetings took place at least twice a month during the first half of the year, with some committees meeting more often. City Council has requested a draft in fall, to be finalized by the end of the year. The facilitator will provide a summary of the discussions and recommendations of the Working Group.
- Nabil has requested that the TCC draft a letter to the Office of Zoning outlining the importance of coordinating the tree protection ordinance and the zoning ordinance updates. Members will review document and comment. Will set up meeting to discuss specific recommendations. (Peyton shared King County WA draft to address tree preservation).

9. **New Business.**

- **Historic Tree Nomination.** Review nomination for Historic Trees 1424-1454 Vaughn Street. (nominated by Daniel Solberg). VOTE: motion by Susan Talburt to approve. Second by Chet Tisdale. **UNAN in support.**

10. **Old Business.**