

**Town of University Park  
Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment  
MINUTES for the meeting,  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

**LOCATION: TELEMEETING VIA ZOOM**

**Members Present/Absent**            Beth Alvarez, Roy Alvarez, Chris Aubry (Chair), Eric Erickson, Matt Jasinski, Laurie Morrissey (Council Liaison), Karen Sondak, Joe Thompson, Tiegh Thompson

**GUESTS:** Mickey Beall, Director, DPW

***CONVENE: 7:03PM***

**ITEMS THAT WERE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING:**

1. Liaison Morrissey stated Town Attorney Ferguson had completed the draft of the proposed amendment to the Town Code to incorporate TPE's proposed Tree Ordinance. The Committee agreed to ask that the Town Council defer their discussion until TPE reviews and approves.
2. The date for the Community Planting event is set for Saturday, 10/23/21, to plant native shrubs along the southern edge of the Pollinator Meadow. Environmentalist Ariel Trahan from the Anacostia Watershed Society endorsed this activity as ecologically appropriate and beneficial.
3. Mickey Beall, Director DPW, reported the following, regarding TPE's recommendations for DPW:
  - a. Pear tree removal:
    - i. A 2009 inventory of Callery Pear trees is maintained by DPW. There were formerly 208, currently 130-140. Director Beall pledged to provide to TPE. [*Since provided, on 4/19*]
    - ii. PEPCO is willing to remove any pear tree beneath their power lines and bear the cost. DPW is scheduling 1-3 per year. The cost of stump grinding is not included.
    - iii. Cost to UP, if bearing the cost is on average \$1,500, inclusive of stump grinding.
    - iv. Should TPE wish to implement a formal plan for removal, it would need to be referred to Town Council.
  - b. Planting Pollinator Meadow: Director Beall approves of this site for the 2021 Community Planting.
  - c. TPE expressed interest in obtaining two benches for the South Henson Green planting of 2020, having noted two new benches at the Pollinator Meadow. Director Beall indicated that these costs \$1,300 each.
  - d. Director Beall agreed to protect newly planted trees from deer with welded wire fencing secured by stake and pegs.
4. Committee members commented on Open Tree Map, an open-source tree inventory software for collection and storage of up to 30-40,000 trees. (UP has ~10,000.) Most members are in favor of updating the street/park tree inventory, most recently completed in October 2009. The Open Tree Map was deemed a good choice.

***ADJOURNED: 8:20 PM***