

Town of University Park: Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment
MINUTES for the meeting,
Wednesday, 5/12/2021

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: Karin Burghardt, UP resident and UMD Professor, Dept. Entomology

CONVENE: 7:05PM

ADJOURN: 8:30

Matters discussed at this meeting:

1. Next steps, Ordinance/Legacy Tree program, amend town code, Chapter 16. TPE members were tasked with redlining Town Attorney Ferguson's 4/15/21 draft of the proposed Tree Ordinance – for discussion at the June 9th meeting. Dr. Burghardt suggested that TPE consider an incentive where residents receive a tax credit for every qualifying tree (>50" circumference at BH). Some discussion ensued.
2. Brood X Cicadas Response : UP resident and UMD Professor, Dept. of ENTM Karin Burghardt appealed to TPE to advocate for erring on the side of NOT NETTING trees and shrubs in response to the 17 year cicadas' emergence. She notes many improperly netted trees in the curb strips, that she predicts will cause more harm than good – either by mechanical injury resulting from bent branches over 1.5-2 months, trunk girdling, or by cicada damage if the netting is not thoroughly deployed – points of entry remaining – or a combination of both. Dr. Burghardt provided literature regarding type of trees preferred by cicadas for egg laying. Chair Aubry will post to the Listserv and include UMD's "Cicada Crew's" website.
3. Stormwater and TPE: This issue is of increasing concern. One example: Pineway & Claggett gets flooded every time it rains. Currently, the Sustainability Committee has taken the lead on this issue. They advocate for a comprehensive plan for all of UP's public spaces. TPE members noted that flooding is a strong argument for the proposed Tree Ordinance, as one medium tree can soak up about 2,400 gallons of rain per year.
4. Community Tree Planting 2021: Member T. Thompson would like the size of the Pollinator Meadow expanded, especially in the direction of Adelphi Road. Dr. Burghardt recommends that the Meadow boundaries be better indicated. Member Jasinski noted that this planting represents an excellent opportunity to implement the Sustainability Committee's emphasis for a comprehensive Park Plan in respect to stormwater management, as the Pollinator Meadow is upstream from much of UP's lower elevations.