

Town of University Park: Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment
MINUTES for the meeting,
Wednesday, 11/10/2021

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

GUESTS: n/a

CONVENE: 7:05 PM

ADJOURN: 8:35 PM

Matters discussed at this meeting:

1. Next steps, Ordinance/Legacy Tree program, amend town code, Chapter 16: Current draft language with Town Attorney Ferguson for review. TPE anticipates inclusion on Monday's agenda (11/15) for Town Council meeting discussion.

2. Interfacing with Sustainability Committee:
In the wake of the decision/directive not to proceed with full planting, Mary Sue Twohy reached out to discuss improving communication between the committees. Chair Aubry met with her and fellow Sustainability Committee member Steven Hurtt Thursday 11/4. Chair Aubry provided this summary (*with TPE's comments in parenthesis*):
 - Tree Comm asks to meet with Sustainability Comm 2 x a year. (*TPE prefers once a year, with DPW Director kept in loop for all matters pertaining to planting/removal of vegetation town right of ways.*)
 - Tree Committee would like a voice on Potential Park Plan - will bring to Sustainability. (*TPE concurs.*)
 - Evaluated Tree Committee proposal - suggesting to move 3 Paw Paws and 3 Arrowwood viburnums to the northwestern side of the meadow. To be mindful of planting trees on the south and east of meadow with a 1 to 1 ratio in mind. *i.e.* a 70-foot tree would need to be 70 feet back from the meadow - also the equinox in winter is as low as 45%. Reason: the space north east and south east of the meadow was used for educational events and we are mindful of trees that are larger than 50 feet will add shade to part of the meadow in morning hours. (*TPE concurs.*)
 - Tree Committee recommends to suggest planting saplings that grow in meadow to south west side of meadow. These are mainly redbud trees which are under story trees. This idea will be taken up with Sustainability and Town. This would

need to have physical engagement by members of both committees. (*TPE concurs.*)

- *Maintain current clearance of meadow edge established by current set of sycamores trees *etc.* - we can measure to give accurate guidance. We didn't talk of clearances around meadow but it seemed the Tree Committee was already adhering to keeping a perimeter clearance of meadow. Considered absolutely essential for DPW. (*TPE concurs.*)
- Request Tree committee consult with Sustainability of plans around pollinator meadow and loop Sustainability in conversations with third parties like Anacostia Watershed Society *et al.* (*TPE concurs.*)

3. Community Tree Planting 2021 updates:

A total of six were in attendance – C. Aubry, B. Alvarez, R. Alvarez, K. Sondak, K. Burghardt, and S. Burghardt (visiting from Knoxville, TN.) Miscommunications with DPW were noted – holes not dug, tools or soil amendments not on site, etc. DPW staff arrived and rectified. TPE learned that UP no longer has the tractor with all its PTO attachments, including the auger.

4. Ivy League November (11/13, 10 AM)

Some volunteers will work west of the 9-11 memorial, along the trail, Chair Aubry will remove ivy from a HHUP client's trees on their property on 40th Ave.

5. Next Meeting: Committee agreed to skip December's meeting; the next meeting will be a work session in January, date TBD. Open house at Chair's residence is the likely venue.

6. Other Business

- a. Unbeknownst to the Chair, the TPE reflector (TreeComm@UPMD.org) was not functional for an indeterminate period. This was corrected with Town Clerk's assistance.
- b. HHUP clientele informed of the Ivy League availability for trees on their property.
- c. Chair met with four residents and conferred regarding trees on their property.
- d. Chair updated committee on his meetings with Dave Crocker (husband of ex-member Eddie) and ex-member Tiegh Thompson.
- e. Member J. Thompson advised TPE include the i-Tree software and associated hardware needed with our request for inclusion when we forward our list to Town Manager D. Deutsch.