

**Town of University Park: Committee on Trees, Parks, and Environment
MINUTES for the meeting,
Wednesday, 12/1/2021**

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: Mayor Carey, Mike Kemper, Meredith Kemper

CONVENE: 7:04 PM

ADJOURN: 8:39 PM

Matters discussed at this meeting:

1. Next steps, Ordinance/Legacy Tree program, amend town code, Chapter 16. Committee members and Mayor Carey engaged in an in-depth discussion of proposed language for draft tree ordinance. Committee shared new flow chart for how the proposed process will work, and clarified that the ordinance is not approval-based, but rather based on voluntary disclosures and replacement of all healthy trees that are removed that measure over 50" circumference at breast height. Other matters included best approach to safeguarding the canopy, managing the town's trees, reforestation coupled with resident participation. TPE pointed out that a geospatial inventory and benchmark canopy overview are both essential components necessary for planning purposes and development of a meaningful tree plan for the town's trees. To this last point, member K. Burghardt demonstrated the power of canopy data for demonstrating where to plant and spoke on the extraordinary utility of geospatial tree inventories, most recently experienced when using the City of Baltimore's.
2. This meeting/Next meeting
In its November 10th meeting, TPE members agreed the next committee meeting would be in January, 2022, most likely for planning purposes. Since we were unable to get the draft ordinance language before the Council for discussion, we agreed to meet again on 12/1.
TPE will next gather in January 2022, in a venue and format both to be determined.