



Minutes
Wilmington Tree Commission Regular Meeting
9:30 – 11:00 pm, February 21st, 2024

2024 Chair, Tom Boland presiding.

Commissioners Present In-Person:

Catherine Cardamone
Andrew Blank

Commissioners Present Virtual:

Alana Seaman
Cathey Luna
Rainey Wallace
Chair, Thomas Boland

Absent with Notice:

Jim Gregory, Vice Chair

Absent without Notice:

Peter (Jud) Watkins

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Sally Pridgen
Aaron Reese
Haley Hopkins, Secretary

Others Present:

Dan Camacho, ACFT

1. Call to order at 9:33; Quorum present.
2. Review and approve minutes from January 17, 2024, meeting (VOTE) - *Motion to edit minutes to add Dan Camacho as present Kate, Second Cathey; Motion to approve minutes with edit Kate, Second Cathy, All in favor 5/9.*
3. **Heritage Tree and Tree Awards** – (Cathey) update on tree award.
 - a. Select date for City Council Presentation (March or April dates)
 - b. Discuss presentation plan, certificates, and missing data. – *If Jim does not have data or data is not shared, may need to re-measure. Also have on outstanding application. Cathey received the list of all Heritage Trees that need to be awarded and is actively working on making their certificates, will be sending them to Tom for first approval. Goal to present awards at the second April City Council meeting – Haley adding item to CC agenda.*
4. Strategic Planning committee updates.
 - a) **Tree Ordinance and Enforcement**- SMART GOAL: Educate all groups on how tree ordinance works by end of fiscal year 2023 (Committee members Jim and Jud). Jim reviewing Tree Permitting education piece to recommend for use in Zoning Dept.-Jim Update. – *Jim not present. Need to meet with Jim to discuss the progress of this committee.*
 - b) **Resource Commitment** – SMART GOAL: Provide support to City and other organizations in the implementation of the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) (Committee members are Tom who is committee chair, Cathey)
Urban Forest Master Plan – (Sally/Aaron) update on progress of action plans – *Many of the budget items pertaining to the UFMP are not moving forward in the budget as it is a tight year. Forestry is actively hiring in one position, when hired this will be their first-time full staff since 2018. Currently working on an MOU with ACFT and an update to the Technical Standards. Parks and Forestry working on pursuing grant opportunities from the IRA.*

- c) **Community Education** – SMART GOAL: Develop an ad hoc committee to identify 3-5 actions/activities to incorp into workplan by end of 2022 (Committee members are Lloyd Singleton who is committee chair, Kate, and Alana). - Native Tree list-(Kate) update. – Native list and other native planting materials complete and uploaded by planting season (fall).
- 5. Dan Camacho - Update on activities of the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees – *ACFT breaking records for number of trees planted in one event and for tree distribution pick up. Still working to figure issues with Tree Stewards watering abilities/process.*
 - a. March 9 – Tree distribution at Legion Stadium Pool
 - b. March 21 – Creek Week presentation
 - c. March 24 – Heritage Tree Tour
 - d. April 20 – Work on Wilmington clean up at Pine Forest Cemetery
- 6. New Business
 - a. Attendance Policy
 - i. **Excerpt from Bylaws: Removal or Resignation.** Any appointed voting member (“member”) may, by notice in writing to the Commission, resign at any time. Any member may be removed from office for cause by vote of the Council. Unexcused absence of a member appointed by the Council from three (3) consecutive meetings shall constitute an offer of resignation.
 - b. Meeting Location Change – *COW is no longer offering current meeting space (Harrelson) past end of February, options given from COW Communications to meet completely virtual or completely in person in Thalian Hall, Council Chambers. Decided to meet in Council Chambers in March all in-person, but Haley actively seeking other meeting options.*
 - c. Arbor Day Plans – *Aaron assessing MLK Center for tree planting location, if not available space will suggest other parks for planting. Goal to have planting and celebration on March 22. Kate agrees to be NC Arbor Day point person as Tom will not be present at event.*
 - d. Calendar Development – *Haley shared March calendar events. Annual event list discussed with: Tree Fest, Native Plant Fest, Earth Day, Work on Wilmington, Creek Week, NC and National Arbor Day.*
 - e. Urban Heat Island Mapping Grant Update – *Grant application submitted on time, should find out results in late March.*

Next Meeting is at 9:30 am, Wednesday, **March 20, 2024**. The meeting will be hybrid, (via zoom or in person at TBD)

- a) Adjourn – 10:38