

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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RAVINDER S. BHALLA
Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman
Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
Peter Cossio, Commissioner
Amy Sommer, Commissioner
Ken Missbrenner, Commissioner
Jeffrey Pilot, 1st Alternate

Minutes of the March 12, 2018 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:14pm.

Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the commission secretary.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Bakarich, Sommer, Missbrenner, and Chairwoman Davis

Absent: Commissioner Cossio and 1st Alternate Pilot

Also present: Daisy Amado, commission secretary, and Quanika Stover, Green Infrastructure Specialist/Urban Forestry Coordinator for the City of Hoboken and liaison for Director Leo Pellegrini of Environmental Services.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 12, 2018 commission meeting
Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Sommer and all members present unanimously in favor.

2. Chair's Report

- End of Year report completed in time, was approved, and we are still in compliance.
- 319 Washington – Chair spoke with, John Nastasi Architects, and was advised they are going with the Sweet Gum with no fruit as recommended by the Commission.
- Community Forestry Management Plan – Chair spoke with Paul Cowie who will be attending our April meeting. Chair will send Daisy the Five Year Plan so she may make copies for the commissioners for April meeting.
- At the last meeting, HSTC voted and Chair submitted to Patrick Wherry, Assistant Business Administrator for the City of Hoboken, two alternate species for the rain gardens. Patrick advised City is going with Kentucky Coffee Tree – espresso which does not drop the pods.

- Chairwoman spoke with attorney for commission, John Miller, regarding commissioners on site while tree work is conducted and he advised we may only inspect the tree after work is done – commissioners should not be on site while work is taking place. Quanika asked if the commission performs an assessment of trees prior to work performed and if we can charge for any damages to trees. Chairwoman mentioned we have the tree permit in place and topping trees is not permitted. Per Quanika, New York City has an evaluation process before and after. Chairwoman asked if she could email the checklist to her for the commission’s review. Discussion ensued as to perhaps taking pictures before and after tree work is performed.
- Chairwoman spoke with Frank Magaletta, Chairman for the Planning Board regarding rain gardens. They had a productive discussion about the Shade Tree Commission’s concerns about the Planning Board promoting rain gardens. Mr. Magaletta wants the chairwoman to write a letter to the Planning Board and City Engineer. Chairwoman will send a letter to the Planning Board Secretary to distribute. Chair thanked Commissioner Missbrenner for the information he supplied that was helpful. Mr. Magaletta was very appreciative that we brought this to his attention.
- 113 Garden Street – Black Square Builders – Quanika Stover went out to look at the tree at this location. Tree inter-twined with PSE&G lines. Chairwoman was notified and spoke with the project manager. This is a new building and had no power to the lines. We let him prune the tree as PSE&G did not need to come out as there was no power.
- Chair obtained permission from County regarding a parking lot on Willow and Eleventh as residents are requesting trees be planted there. We have permission to plant. It is currently an unattractive corner – the trees will help – we will plant right in front of the parking lot.
- Notice went out to owner of 205 Twelfth Street to remove hazardous tree.
- On First Street there are four trees in front of park – Oscar Murillo of the City of Hoboken also sent a notice.
- We have two big projects coming up as follows:
 1. **Waterfront Project** – 111 River Street – Cali Mark leases the land from Port Authority. Director Pellegrini spoke with the Port Authority and they want the Hoboken

Shade Tree Commission to recommend what they should do. Chairwoman stated the commission will take a field trip and walk the whole length of walkway to analyze. Port Authority will consider Hoboken Shade Tree Commission recommendations. This is a great project. Chairwoman will send out possible dates for field trip.

2. Church Square Park - lost four trees. Director Pellegrini advised Chair last week that two more trees are gone and asked the Shade Tree Commission to make recommendations on tree removal and what should be planted.

- Chair stated she is proud to say that City Hall is looking for the Hoboken Shade Tree's recommendations.
- 94 Bloomfield in front of Sobsey's there is an old pear tree owner wants removed. Commissioner Missbrenner took a look at the tree and agreed it should be removed. Commissioners agreed tree should be removed with understanding the owner will replace the tree north of where current tree is with a bigger tree pit. For the next meeting, the Commission will recommend tree species for 94 Bloomfield Street for replacement tree.
- Chair provided County with addresses of all stumps on Park Avenue and they will remove. Chair is currently working on a list of stumps on Willow.
- We received a payment in lieu of tree planting from developer, 502 Madison Street, LLC, in connection to the condition on their Hoboken Planning Board resolution. They were initially scheduled to plant fourteen (14) trees; owner and Chairwoman went back and forth about the ten (10) remaining trees and finally they decided to pay instead of plant. A check for \$16,000 was deposited.

3. Waterfront Project – Hoboken Shade Tree Commission

This item was discussed in Chair's report.

4. 2018 Spring Tree Planting Update

Chairwoman had emailed commissioners with their respective mark out assignments. Commissioners Missbrenner, Sommer and Bakarich along with the Chair all finished their mark outs. Commissioner Cossio and 1st Alternate Pilot need to complete their assigned mark outs.

5. Public Comments (limited to five minutes per person)

No members of the public appeared before the commission.

6. New Business

- Quanika Stover provided the Commission with handouts she prepared pursuant to her meeting with the Mayor on decorative lighting around trees. Per Quanika, business owners have approached the Mayor in connection to their interest on this. Quanika prepared the following: *'Tree Permit Process; Guidelines for Ornamental Lighting in/around City Trees; Letter of Guarantee; Tree Permit Application for Ornamental Lighting;*' and she also provided pictures of types of LED lights along with pictures of types of attachments (chain, ties, ribbon and tape). Quanika said she needs the Commission's input and the lights would only be around the trunks of trees. Quanika mentioned: this is mostly for businesses; long term and some are for holidays only; she looked at other City's; this would need to be annually assessed; and we would hold business owners responsible/liable. Commissioners asked where would power/electricity be pulled from. Commissioners also mentioned how the roots of the trees cannot be disturbed. Per Quanika, businesses on First Street were interested in this lighting. Discussion ensued. Chairwoman said the commission should think about this, ask more questions on it and read about it. Commissioners asked if there is no conflict on this or a City Ordinance. Quanika was advised she should check with the Historic Preservation Board.
- Commissioner Missbrenner mentioned he noticed the property owner on Bloomfield and Fourteenth Streets have filled the pits with brick or belguim blocks and the tree is so big it is pushing the blocks out. He asked if when we see this can we address the property owner. Chairwoman asked that she be emailed and she will contact owner.
- Commissioner Missbrenner mentioned that at the Weehawken Cove there is a row of London Plains and someone ripped off some branches. He went over and pruned so people would not get hurt. He noticed there is someone in the neighborhood that goes around pruning trees and does a bad job.
- Commissioner Missbrenner mentioned that at the waterfront park – Pier C – the wood decking is “crazy slippery” when it snows.
- Commissioner Missbrenner also mentioned the long straight run from Pier C towards Blue Eyes café he believes there should be some bollards so someone cannot drive into it. Chairwoman said we could look at that when we do the field trip.
- Chairwoman reminded everyone about the Sapling Event on Earth Day, April 21st. She said she will need everyone to participate from 9am to 2pm in Church Square Park. She will also need about eight long tables – she will ask Director Pellegrini. Chairwoman asked Commissioner Bakarich to contact volunteers at Stevens for Saplins Event.
- Commissioner Sommer sent Chair photographs of 821 Garden as there was recent pruning

done to that tree that is “really bad.” Commissioner Sommer also mentioned the area by the shoe repair shop on Willow and sidewalk repair and there is asphalt right up to the tree.

- Quanika Stover mentioned Patrick Wherry told her that along with rain garden project they are planting twenty trees between Observer Highway and Fifth Street. Quanika mentioned she recommended they enlarge tree pits. Discussion as to the total amount of new trees. Chairwoman will call Patrick to clarify and discuss. Per Quanika, Patrick mentioned we should plant after Arts and Music Festival but before June 1st.
- Chairwoman mentioned we are applying for CSIP grant.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Missbrenner and seconded by Commissioner Bakarich with all members present in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m.