

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 May 14, 2018 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Cossio, Sommer, Missbrenner, 1st Alternate Pilot and Chairwoman Davis.

Absent: Commissioner Bakarich

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 April 18, 2018 commission meeting

Chairwoman asked for the following revisions to the April 17th minutes: 1) second paragraph of the Chair's report, she said at the meeting that the County had removed stumps on Willow but it should be on Park not Willow; and 2) under New Business, last paragraph regarding decorative lighting around trees. Per Chair, the reason why the Commission voted recommending not to allow decorative lighting around the trees is per the Shade Tree Commission Ordinance, it states: "No person shall fasten any rope, wire, sign or other device to any trees..."

Commissioner Sommer made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes with a second from Commissioner Missbrenner and all members present unanimously in favor.

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

2. Chair's Report

- Chairwoman thanked Commissioners for their attendance and assistance at the April 21st Sapling event. She mentioned the turn-out was not as big as it normally has been because: 1) residents are used to going down to the Municipal Garage on Observer and Willow to pick up the saplings; and 2) residents were not notified as they have been in the past by the city. Chair also stated that for the last two weekends, residents have been going to Municipal Garage and picking up saplings. Chair is taking care of the saplings every day.

3. Five Year Plan discussion with Paul Cowie

Mr. Paul Cowie arrived at 7:10pm and reviewed the 2014-2018 Community Forestry Management Plan that the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission had submitted five years ago. Our new five year plan is due November 2018 (Chair had provided all Commissioners with copies at April meeting). The following items were discussed to confirm whether the Shade Tree Commission fulfilled the 2014-2018 Five Year Plan and the Commission confirmed all of the following were accomplished.

- Updated tree inventory list. Chair confirmed we have one done by ArborPro.
- Working relationship with Planning Board.
- Close working relationship with Hudson County's Shade Tree Director.
- Yearly Accomplishment Reports have been submitted, approved and signed by the Mayor.
- The City's overall canopy coverage – will be included as a goal for five year plan.
- The City's Master Plan - will be included as a goal for five year plan.
- Review organizational chart with Mayor and Council will be included as a goal for five year plan. Paul Cowie mentioned that City employees should understand that the Shade Tree Commission has exclusive care of all public trees and operate as an autonomous body with full rights to do so.
- Current Ordinances – Chairwoman has been working on this with HSTC attorney and will continue to work on it. This will be included as a goal for five year plan.
- Sidewalk and tree conflicts – Chairwoman has been working on this and will continue to be included as a goal for five year plan.
- Handling of service requests – updated/accomplished will continue to review.
- Design and tree planting standards – updated/accomplished - will continue to be included as a goal for five year plan.
- Annual CEUs per year required. Commission will continue to maintain compliance.

Quanika Stover left the meeting at 8:01pm

Projects: some have been accomplished and HSTC will continue to do so and one is a new goal to be included in five year plan.

- Specific training for Commissioners.
- Pruning.
- Tree Expert License requirement to be added to Ordinance.
- Tree City USA.
- Annual Arbor Day activities.
- Community outreach activities.
- Annual report.

Commissioner Cossio left the meeting 8:23pm

- Use of newsletters, website and local newspapers.
- Tree tags and no trash signs – will review effectiveness.

Commissioner Missbrenner left the meeting at 8:33pm.

Meeting was officially adjourned and all members present unanimously in favor.

Paul Cowie Continued discussion of five year plan with remaining members.

4. Review plans for 401-413 Jackson Street

Not addressed – will be on agenda for June meeting.

5. 2018 Spring Tree Planting Update

Not addressed – will be on agenda for June meeting.

6. Lights in Trees Update

Chair discussed during the approval of the minutes.

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

No members of the public appeared before the commission.

8. New Business

No new business discussed.

The remaining members of the Commission and Mr. Cowie concluded at 9:20p.m.