

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER
Mayor



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

Minutes of the September 11, 2017 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners: Sommer, 1st Alternate Ken Missbrenner and Chairwoman Davis

Absent: Commissioners: Bakarich and Cossio

Also present: Daisy Amado, commission secretary

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes of the August 14, 2017 commission meeting

Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Commissioner Sommer with all three members present in favor.

2. Chair's Report

- Chair discussed City's new hire of a Green Infrastructure Urban Forestry Coordinator. Chair was informed by Director Pellegrini that the new employee would be attending Hoboken Shade Tree Commission meetings in place of Chris Brown.
- Chair asked if she could add the following two trees to the Commission's List of Approved Trees: Japanese Pagoda Tree (Scholar Tree) and the Paperbark Maple Tree. It was also discussed to remove the following tree from the list: Crabapple Tree. All members present unanimously agreed to add these two trees and remove the one from the Commission's list.
- New Jersey Tree Federation Conference in October, Chairwoman is attending and asked if any other Commissioners are interested. Commissioner Sommer advised she would check her availability.
- Five Year Plan is due again for 2018. Chairwoman is completing a grant reimbursement for half of the cost of hiring someone to write the grant for us. The Commission has enough activity, outreach and community development we just need more credits.
- Chair was going to discuss website, but we will at the October meeting when all other Commissioners are present.

3. Washington Street

Chair advised there are twenty two (22) trees recommended to be taking down or moved and she recommended that eight (8) of those trees be saved. Chairwoman met with the City's Business Administrator and others who manage the Washington Street project and she provided a report on trees that should be saved. At this meeting, Chair also requested that the bump-outs be stopped as well as the rain gardens. Chairwoman mentioned she read a lot on rain gardens and the only success story was in Philadelphia. In Seattle, the rain gardens are getting clogged up and residents are requesting to have them removed. Discussed ensued as to recommendations for trees for rain gardens. Commissioner Sommer will send a list and we will vote on it at our meeting in October. Commission stated that healthy mature trees should not be moved for rain gardens. Chair also mentioned how she witnessed flooding on Washington and Seventh due to the bump-outs which was very hazardous, covered half of whole sidewalk, bench on this corner which was halfway under water. Commissioners requested to see plans.

4. Review/Recommendations for 423 Madison

Commissioner Sommer reviewed plans with Commission and advised there is not enough detail/information provided. The proposed street trees in sidewalk in curvilinear rain garden planters along Madison and Fifth Streets with unknown species. Commissioner Sommer's recommendations are the plans are to be revised/resubmitted with the following information: 1) confirm if existing trees on Fifth Street are viable enough to remain and if so, provide tree protection during construction. 2) If rain garden planters are being proposed, provide detail drawings. Clarify if rain gardens are capturing street or sidewalk runoff. Planting detain shown are not consistent with plans. 3) Modify shape of planters. Narrow planter areas will not have sufficient soil volume to support plant growth. 4) Tree pit size must be at least 3" wide with wider 5'x10' recommended. 5) Provide tree pit guards. 6) Do not put planter directly in front of entrance. 7) Provide proposed planting list for sidewalk.

Commission further recommends avoiding putting sidewalk planters/tree pits directly in front of building entrances. Also, due to the presence of overhead utility wires at both streets small trees from the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission species list should be used. If rain gardens are intended with occasional planter inundation, a wet tolerant small tree such as Serviceberry is recommended.

These plans are being sent back.

Commissioners present unanimously agreed to these recommendations.

AGENDA TAKEN OUT OF ORDER AND ITEM ADDED BY CHAIRWOMAN

5. 720 Clinton Street

Chairwoman advised the plans were re-done as per the HSTC's recommendations. Commission reviewed plans and discussion ensued. Proposed are sixteen (16) street trees in sidewalk along Clinton, Eighth and Grand Streets. Commission recommends providing larger, 5' x 10' tree pits on

Clinton Street and modifying planting details so that newly planted trees are installed with wood stakes/ties rather than guy wires as per the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission standard detail. These plans are being sent back for revision.

Commissioners present unanimously agreed to these recommendations.

6. Review/Recommendations for 300 Clinton

Commissioner Sommer reviewed plans with Commission and discussed. The scope of work involves: three (3) proposed trees at Clinton and Third Streets – Norway Maples. The Hoboken Shade Tree Commission decided these plans are to be revised and resubmitted to include the following: 1) provide larger tree pits, 4'x8' minimum, 5'x10' are recommended where feasible. 2) provide tree planting and sidewalk tree pit detail as in the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission's standard detail. 3) move proposed tree on Third Street further away from intersection and relocate parking sign if required. 4) propose trees from the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission's approved trees. Norway maples are not an approved species and are now considered invasive. Japanese Pagoda Trees are recommended. These plans are being sent back to include recommended revisions.

Commissioners present unanimously agreed to these recommendations.

7. Tree Protection Guidelines for Construction Sites

Commissioner Bakarich provided Chairwoman with Protective Tree Barrier handout which the Commissioners reviewed. Discussion ensued. The following revisions were suggested: 1) Wrapping trunk is not necessary; and 2) Wrap tree guard with orange construction plastic fencing. Chairwoman will ask Commissioner Bakarich to revise form to include these changes.

Commissioner Sommer made a motion to approve the form with the revisions discussed with a second from Commissioner Misbrenner with all three members present in favor.

8. Public Comments

James Tricarico, former Chairman for the Hoboken Shade Tree Commission joined the meeting at approximately 7:18pm. Mr. Tricarico made no public comments, just mentioned "came to hear what's going on."

9. New Business

- Commissioner Sommer asked about Fall planting and Chairwoman advised it is not taking place.

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

Meeting concluded at 8:09 p.m.