

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER
Mayor



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

Minutes of the February 13, 2017 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Commissioner Cossio, Commissioner Sommer, 1st Alternate Ken Missbrenner and Chairwoman Diana Davis.

Absent: Commissioners Bakarich and Condon.

Also present: Chris Brown, liaison for Director Pellegrini of the Department of Environmental Services and Daisy Amado, commission secretary.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2017 commission meeting

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

Chairwoman handed the meeting over to the commission secretary.

2. Commission to vote for Chairperson (re-organization for 2017)

Commissioner Cossio moved to re-elect Diana Davis as the Chairperson of the Shade Tree Commission with a second from Commissioner Sommer and the motion carried with all members present in favor.

Meeting handed back over to the Chairwoman.

3. Chair's Report

- ArborPro is finalized and will begin updating our inventory in May. We will be moving forward with new software and we will require training. There will be a webinar that the Commission should take as a group in case any questions arise. Chairwoman will look up license agreements as she wants all Commissioners to have their own password and she will also follow-up with email to narrow down dates for same.
- Chairwoman is in process of updating our website as there is a lot of outdated information currently on it. Commissioner Cossio had worked on updating the website previously and will take on this project from this point forward. Commissioner Cossio will make updates,

send to Commissioners, and then forward to Juan Melli, Communication Manager for the City, for proper posting.

- Chair requested 2,500 trees from the NJ Tree Foundation; we pick them up on April 5th; and approximately a week later will be the free tree give-a-way. Chair will be looking for volunteers. Commissioner Cossio suggested we ensure Juan Melli updates social media with this information.
- Chair received email from resident who was upset about trees being removed from the waterfront. Chair responded and advised that the trees were dying.
- On 206 Eleventh Street there was a dangerous branch on a tree about to fall off. Chair notified Director Pellegrini and James Davis. James called PSE&G. A week later the branch had not been removed.
- Trees on Pier A and along lower walkway – Chris Brown advised that per Leo this is an ongoing report and no action is currently being taken as it is still being evaluated. Chairwoman mentioned it would be good if the Commission was involved. Chris Brown stated that the South Waterfront Board is involved and their members are residents of the buildings and contribute to the maintenance and Leo interacts directly with them. Commissioners asked who makes the final decision and the Shade Tree Commission should have a say in this. Chair will send Leo an email recommending Commission's involvement on this project.
- Chair advised that she sent an email on January 26, 2017 to Michael Korman, Personnel Officer for the City in connection to the Commissioners receiving ID badges. The Chairwoman received an email from Stephen Marks, Business Administrator, advising that the request for IDs was denied. Chair read the email to the Commission. T-shirts were suggested.
- Chair stated she has to let the State know how we previously spent the CSIP Grant money. Chair emailed Leo as he knows we are applying for another CSIP grant. Commission will be in control of the money if we get the grant this year.
- **11th Street trees**, the Commission previously selected: Tupelo Tree, Kentucky Coffee Tree, American Yellowwood and the Siberian/Chinese Elm. However, Chairwoman read about a warning with the Kentucky Coffee Tree. Discussion ensued amongst Commissioners as to how these trees are planted all over New York and how it is impossible for a person to bite on the pod, etc., and how Kentucky Coffee Tree is suitable for urban environments. After extensive discussion, Commission decided to leave the four suggested trees as is.

4. Washington Street Redesign Project – protection of trees during construction

Chairwoman stated she does not believe the trees are well protected and recommends the Commission come up with a better plan. Commission discussed the need for a diagram in connection to how tall surrounding guard needs to be. Commissioner Missbrenner mentioned how plans do not take into account the urban conditions and the idea is to keep everything away from the trunks. Discussion about urbantree.org having construction specs on website.

5. Revisions to Tree Planting Forms – Commissioner Condon

Chairwoman is using the form she made up for now and will bring a list to the next meeting when Commissioner Condon is present.

6. Commission to vote on recommendations made for the following resolutions reviewed at the January 9, 2017 meeting:

➤ **8-10-12 Paterson Avenue**

Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the recommendations with a second from Commissioner Cossio and the motion carried with four members present in favor.

➤ **502-510 Madison Street**

Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the recommendations with a second from Commissioner Cossio and the motion carried with four members present in favor.

➤ **720 Clinton Street**

Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the recommendations with a second from Commissioner Cossio and the motion carried with four members present in favor.

7. 706 Grand Street – Commissioner Sommer

Commission reviewed plans. Recommendations are as follows: avoid planting tree over gas line or near any utility lines on sidewalk. Also, wood chip mulch needs to be added.

Commissioner Missbrenner made a motion to approve the recommendations with a second from Commissioner Cossio and the motion carried with four members present in favor.

8. Trees on Pier A and along lower walkway

This item was discussed during the Chair's report.

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

No members of the public appeared before the Commission.

10. New Business

- Five Year Management Plan – Chair will be sending questionnaires around like she did last time.
- April 3rd meeting changed to Thursday, April 6th.

Commissioner Cossio made a motion to approve the April 6th meeting date with a second from Commissioner Missbrenner with all members present in favor.

- Spring planting will still be taking place; residents are signing up now; and we will ask Juan Melli to post on website.
- Arbor Day – Leo's idea is to replace trees removed on 11th Street.
- Commissioner Cossio inquired as to progress with pruning and Commission's budget. Our budget remains \$50,000 for 2017 but we can apply to the CSIP Grant to remove hazardous trees. Discussion amongst Commissioners regarding PSE&G money and increasing the budget. Chairwoman will schedule a meeting with Leo to discuss the budget and she can invite him to one of the meetings so Commissioners can discuss budget concerns with him. Commissioner Cossio mentioned the Commission has been receiving a \$50,000 budget for years and we should ask for an increase.

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

Meeting concluded at 8:13 p.m.