

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

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DAWN ZIMMER
Mayor



James J. Tricarico, Chairman
Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
Matt Condon, Commissioner
Peter Cossio, Commissioner
Diana Davis, Commissioner
Amy Sommer, 1st Alternate

Minutes of the September 14, 2015 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman called out names of those present.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Chairman James Tricarico	✓
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	ABSENT
Commissioner Matt Condon	ABSENT
Commissioner Peter Cossio	✓
Commissioner Diana Davis	ABSENT
1 st Alternate, Amy Sommer	✓

Also Present: Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; Steve Fahmie, Volunteer; and Daisy Amado, secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for the May 11, June 8, and August 10 meetings postponed to the October 13th meeting as no formal action may be taken at this meeting due to agenda not being published within 48 hours prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

- Washington Street Project, Blocks 3 and 4 – Chris Brown advised that Pat Scanlon was awarded the contract and we are waiting to schedule the pre-construction meeting. Start date should be sometime in October. Chairman advised Commissioner Condon wants to be involved in the pre-construction meeting.
- Shade Tree Commission's Budget – Chairman printed budget reports for Commissioner Cossio's review as he had previously inquired as to the Commission's budget information. Discussion ensued as Chairman and Commissioner reviewed reports.
- Planting Site Data /Fall Planting Status of Tree List - per Chris Brown, Director Pellegrini needs a list. The contractor has eighty five (85) trees on hold at nursery and the Commission can go ahead and plant. Steve Fahmie stated he has ninety eight (98) requests for trees and that we have asked for signed consent forms and \$100 donations. Commissioner Cossio mentioned consent forms should be a priority and we should have the consent forms completed

along with applications. Commissioner Sommer stated we should send an email to requestors stating something along the lines of 'Congrats, you are part of the planting season' which will notify the requestors. Discussion ensued as to who is collecting the forms – Dave Calamoneri; and who will handle this year. Steve Fahmie will send out an email advising 'you have been approved' and in a week or so the people we have not received a response from, we can have Dave call and follow-up. Species selection is 'super important.' Chairman said we should have a column identifying which tree species and size should be planted at each location. Chris Brown needs to obtain from Director Pellegrini: what species Lou's Landscaping has available at the nursery. Chris responded that the species are 'the trees specified by the Commission.' The Commission discussed they cannot chose trees without knowing what is in stock at the nursery.

4. **Dead Trees** - Commissioner Cossio asked when dead trees will be taken out. Steve Fahmie mentioned we have a data base; he sent an email with all the links; and we need to hire a contractor for this.

5. **Grant 1 – CSIP Grant Hazardous Tree Pruning Grant** – Steve Fahmie stated that Director Pellegrini needs to be here to discuss. Chris Brown mentioned that the rules of the grant stipulate and there are more advantages to use in the parks. Mr. Fahmie said we specifically wrote this to address street trees. Commissioner Cossio said Parks has its own budget. Chairman explained that when Director Pellegrini gave him the grant to write it was supposed to be written for parks and he wrote it for what the Commission needed. Grant was awarded in October 2013. Chris Brown suggested forwarding the grant application to the Commissioners so there is a better understanding. Chairman stated he wants a new vendor and wants to use \$5,000.

6. **Citizen & City Pruning Schedule and Arborist** - Steve Fahmie spoke with Mike Lamana of Heartwood Ecological Consulting in connection to overseeing staff members from Environmental Services for \$850 per day. Mr. Lamana is available on October 4 and 11th to come in and do the work, will the staff be available to prune these trees we planted in 2010 on these dates. Chairman advised we have to vote on it so we would have to do this at the next meeting. Chairman further stated we can have Director Pellegrini's staff perform the work during their regular work schedule rather than a Saturday. Steve Fahmie mentioned he would be glad to relinquish this job to someone else. Steve also mentioned how Director Pellegrini's staff does not have enough training and it is unfair to them. Commissioner Cossio said he would vote to have Mr. Lamana come in during the week. Commission needs ample time for the Parks Department employees to complete this work. Also, recommendation for additional training. If there are enough tools available for at least six employees to work at the same time. If we hire this consultant, we should be able to have at least six employees attend the training. We should have Mr. Lamana give us a list of tools staff will need.

7. **Multi-Service Center area status of Trees** – Chris Brown advised nothing has changed. Commission feels trees should not be removed.

8. **Rebuild by Design and Shade Tree Commission Objectives** - Chris Brown advised that there may not be opportunity for the Citizen Advisory Committee. The consultant team is deep into the discovery phase of project. If opportunity for more input arises, Chris Brown said he would advocate for the Commission. Commission asked who is the City contact – Caleb Stratton. Chris further advised that the Commission should write a letter; Steve Fahmie said he would write the letter and circulate; letter should talk about the tree pits and where it is feasible to enlarge; and

put the Commission's vision in the letter. Commission discussed bio-infiltration and what are the Commission's duties, how we are not an environmental group.

9. **Grant 2 – State Grant covering Paul Cowie's cost of CFMP** – the State sent the package back. Chairman has sent a copy to Commissioner Davis. Original documents are with Legal and then Mayor's office for signature.

10. **Barbato Contractual Issues** –contractual plans are not completed. Per Chris Brown, they will be coming in October to remedy the problem. Commissioner Sommer asked if they will be enlarging pits. Chris Brown stated the Barbato contract corrections will involve all the requirements of the original contract which include enlarging of tree pits.

11. **Grace Church Volunteer Event** – Per Chris Brown, Director mentioned that volunteers already went out to Stevens, Maxwell and Church Square Park.

12. **NJ Shade Tree Conference Federation Conference – October 23-24** – Chairman will attend on Saturday the 24th as well as Commissioner Sommer. Chairman will fill out the form and ask Director Pellegrini how to have it processed. Chairman also mentioned the need for other City employees to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

- Chris Brown shared Monthly Tree Report –Chairman to add to the October Agenda and Commission to vote on tree removal at October meeting.
- Chairman advised beginning in October the Commission has been provided with a lawyer.
- Removal and replacement of trees on the 11th Street Island – Chairman asked that these be added to the list that the Steven's students prepared. Steve Fahmie will email to Director Pellegrini. Commission wants \$5,000 spent on additional tree removal on: 11th, Park and 5th & Washington.
- Commissioner Cossio mentioned tree in front of McDonalds – nothing ever happened and no one has followed up.
- OPRA designee from Commission – Chairman is one designee, no other volunteers.
- Steve Fahmie mentioned email he received from Thea, a student at Stevens, advising of an event they are having on the 16th from 1 to 3pm and if the Commission wanted a table.
- Discussion as to how the Stevens students did not go all over Hoboken and how there are a lot more trees that need to be identified should the students need a project. Commissioner Sommer said she can do some on Saturday. Steve Fahmie will email Commissioners not in attendance at the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8:24 p.m.

(Minutes taken/submitted by D. Amado)