



CITY OF WESTMINSTER TREE COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 4:30 PM

Conference Room, Second Floor, 56 West Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

A meeting of the City of Westminster Tree Commission was held in the second floor conference room at 56 West Main Street, in Westminster, Maryland 21157, on March 11, 2020, at 4:30 PM.

Chair Steve Allgeier, Commissioner Tim Bangerd, and Commissioner Richard Wilbur were present. City staff Mark Depo, Andrew Gray, Eric Schlitzer, and Samantha Schlitzer were present.

The following members of the public were present: Paul Mullins, Bartlett Tree Experts.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Allgeier motioned to approve the meeting summary of June 12, 2019. Commissioner Wilbur seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Chair Allgeier opened Item A – 2019 Urban and Community Forestry Workshop. Ms. Schlitzer requested Mr. Mullins provide details on the upcoming 2020 Workshop so that Save the Date notices could be sent to previous attendees. Mr. Mullins explained that a new staff member would be handling the Workshop and requested assistance from Ms. Schlitzer with registration on the day of the event. Mr. Mullins then requested suggestions for afternoon sessions; the Commission suggested chainsaw safety, tree risk, urban tree replacement, and the Baltimore Gas and Electric safety demonstration vehicle.

Chair Allgeier opened Item B – Heritage Tree Program Nomination for Pecan Tree at Dutterer Family Park. Mr. Schlitzer presented the application form and information from the State of Maryland that recognized the tree as significant in size. He will provide a photo and updated measurements to post the information on the City's website.

Chair Allgeier opened Item C – Tree Removals without Department of Natural Resources Permission. Mr. Schlitzer reiterated that several trees were removed in the Furnace Hills area last fall. The Homeowner's Association had sent a letter to its community members indicating that the street trees required removal so that sidewalks could be repaired. The HOA also contracted a tree removal company for several locust trees in its common area. Chair Allgeier asked if the residents would be replacing the trees or be fined by Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Schlitzer was unsure at this time.

Chair Allgeier opened Item D – 2020 Arbor Day Celebration – Mr. Schlitzer explained that the February 2020 tornado damaged several trees on the grounds of City Hall. He planned to replace three trees with a hawthorn and two dogwoods during the Arbor Day Celebration. Mr. Mullins stated that Bartlett Tree Experts would be glad to provide donated tree saplings for event attendees and, on behalf of the Westminster Rotary Club, he would ask if they could donate the trees to be planted for the Arbor Day Celebration. Mr. Schlitzer stated that the event would likely be held on a Saturday to accommodate local Boy and Girl Scout troops attending again this year. Mr. Gray asked if a beneficial insect release could be coordinated for the same day. Mr. Mullins will research if the date is too early for the insects to survive.

Chair Allgeier opened Item E – February 7, 2020 Tornado Damage. Mr. Schlitzer presented a slide show of several major trees that had been damaged or destroyed by the tornado.

Chair Allgeier opened Item F – 2019 Tree City USA Application and PLANT Award Application. Mr. Gray stated that the City recently submitted its applications for approval; specifically, the Green level PLANT Award.

Chair Allgeier opened Item G – Street Tree Grate Retrofit. Mr. Schlitzer stated that the current tree grates are cast iron and extremely difficult to maintain. He is researching tree grates using porous concrete to eliminate trip hazards and lower maintenance on the tree bases.

Commission Comments

Chair Allgeier stated that he is working with the Westminster High School and Winters Mill High School environmental clubs to plant trees in the forest buffer at the former Wakefield Valley Golf Course. Dr. Robert Wack plans to present the forest bank program for partnership with the City, if possible.

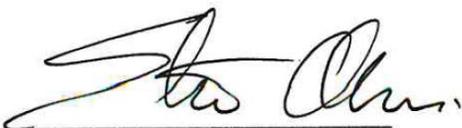
Staff and Public Comments

Mr. Schlitzer presented photos of trees that had been planted incorrectly in the Bolton Hill Development. He has reached out to the contractor to coordinate the trees being relocated and properly planted so that they survive.

Mr. Gray reminded the Commission members to participate in the 2020 United States Census; the website recently went live.

Mr. Depo introduced himself, stating that he has previously worked with tree commissions in other designated Tree City USA municipalities. He looks forward to working with the City of Westminster Tree Commission.

The Commission adjourned at 5:31 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Allgeier", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Allgeier, Chair
Westminster Tree Commission