

MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of September 15, 2022

Held remotely via Zoom

Decision/Consensus/Assignment items are set out in bold.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO REVIEW THESE MINUTES CAREFULLY FOR ASSIGNMENT AND ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THEM

The Meeting of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC) of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) convened at 5:30 p.m. on September 15, 2022, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Co-Chair Peggy Booth, Co-Chair Peter MacDonagh (U of M), Steve Nicholson (MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee), Tim Keane, Giuseppe Marrari, Susan Olmsted, Don Willeke (Mayor's Representative),

Not in attendance: Carol Sersland, Ralph Sievert (MPRB Forestry Director), Steve Collin (Public Works), Curt Hartog (Executive Director for MPS Facilities, School Board Representative), MPRB Commissioner Steffanie Musich (District 5).

Guests in attendance: Philip Potyondy (MPRB Sustainable Forestry Coordinator).

CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES

Co-Chair Booth called the meeting to order. **The MTAC meeting minutes for August 18, 2022, were approved.**

MTAC 2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Discussion and Feedback from MPRB Commissioners at the 9/7 Meeting Potential Modifications to the City Council Presentation on 9/29/22

Chair Booth opened the discussion regarding the Annual Report presentation to the Park Board. What are our (MTAC's) priorities for 2023? What does the MTAC want to be working on? There was interest in park planning and forestry working more together from MTAC members. Other impressions from those who attended the MPRB meeting were that there are new and inexperienced Commissioners, but asked good questions, nonetheless. Another point is that the Planning Department could use experienced arborists on staff.

Observation: when community people get involved in master plans, the tree information is not clearly communicated to make informed decisions. Tree impact statements would be important in this regard. Tree inventories prior to the Master Plan are essential.

There was a proposal to invite MPRB leadership in planning (e.g. Assistant Superintendent of Planning Services Michael Schroeder and Cliff Swenson) to our meeting and discuss MTAC's ideas for Master Planning improvements. We could use examples of planning efforts that have taken place. Scope of work included in the contracts could be discussed. How much tree inventory to include in the Master Plan and how the tree inventory would be reviewed.

Next, MTAC (specifically Chair Booth) will be presenting to the City Council's Public Health and Safety Committee on September 28th at 1 pm. **Booth will send info to the MTAC.** She asked if there are any revisions or change in emphasis for this presentation?

There are no tree evaluations on proposed projects, and this is something that should happen on every project.

MPRB FORESTRY UPDATE

Potyondy presented the Department's update: overtime watering has ended. Outreach activities ongoing. On Xcel Energy property, 80 trees were planted involving volunteers and kids. **Potyondy sent the video in the chat.** <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/video/xcel-energy-day-of-service-continues-as-volunteers-plant-trees-1/>

Pinkala was downtown and toured and presented tree-lore and answered questions. MPRB hosted Tree Trust at Powderhorn Park to plant trees and coordinated with Habitat for Humanity to plant trees on private properties. 100 trees. Underwritten by Wells Fargo Bank.

One hundred trees remain in the survivability study data collection. There is a tree inventory for parkland and for street trees. Are there tree valuations for master planning? Not until the trees are impacted

Carrie Christiansen offered to help regarding **by-law preparation**. **Inform her of our next meeting** (or next in office meeting – November) and she can join us.

MTAC BUSINESS

Future MTAC topics

- **MacDonagh will contact Michael Schroeder to invite him for November or December meeting in order to dedicate the meeting to discussion of tree impacts in the park planning process.**
- Possible to have Angela Gupta present to the MTAC? **MacDonagh will contact her for January or February.**
- **Booth will discuss with Sievert about how the Park Board's priority will be addressed.**
- Forest Outreach Coordinator will visit the MTAC in December after they have had a chance to become familiar with the Department (they are starting in November).
- Willeke demanded that Al Bangoura and Meg Fourney are invited to MTAC discussions– start at the top.

MTAC City Council Liaison

Booth inquired if any further contact had been made with Lisa Goodman on the City Council (Willeke to contact regarding placing a Council liaison on the MTAC). Follow up to the July meeting's City Council rep discussion– Lisa Goodman has been out of town and Willeke will contact her. Willeke thought Linea Palmisano (in the 13th ward) was working on finding a liaison. **Olmsted to contact Palmisano** (as her Council rep). The question is: someone on behalf of the Council to attend our meetings. Potyondy suggested Michael Rainville as someone who has been a friend of the urban forest, to reach out to. No one on MTAC, however, is in his ward. **Musich will contact Andrew Johnson to find an appointment to join the MTAC.**

Booth is looking for volunteers to follow through on City Council ordinance on proactive ash removal and planting.

MTAC FIELD TRIP

MacDonagh gave us the coordinates for meeting: North Aldrich Avenue and 8th Avenue North puts you at the Heritage Landing - public housing for Heritage Park (south of Sumner Field Park). scheduled a tour of Heritage Landing (Hwy 55 and Aldrich) public housing for our October 20th meeting. **Meet at 4:30 pm (base on the daylight factor). MacDonagh will send a note with details.** Looking at water quality and reducing water speed using green infrastructure. Housing Authority and City work together to plant trees.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/N+Aldrich+Ave+%26+N+8th+Ave,+Minneapolis,+MN+55411/@44.9867005,-93.2925291,17.93z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x52b332f73f142d4b:0xbfa750a9c1430fa!8m2!3d44.9863228!4d-93.2910415>

ACTION ITEMS FROM AUGUST AND RESULTS

1. Question about the Number of trees that have been condemned on private property?
Potyondy can check on this.
2. **Booth is looking for volunteers to follow through on City Council ordinance on proactive ash removal and planting.** *Note: Booth subsequently got some information from Sydney Schaaf (Interim Environmental Services Supervisor, Minneapolis Department of Health) and spoke on this at presentation.*
3. **Booth will follow up with Ms. Schaaf regarding a short presentation on City Trees program.**

SEPTEMBER MEETING ACTION ITEMS

1. Booth emailed a link for the September 28th City Council meeting.
2. Carrie Christiansen offered to help regarding **by-law preparation. Inform her of our next meeting** (or next in office meeting – November) and she can join us.
3. **MacDonagh will contact Michael Schroeder to invite him for November or December meeting in order to dedicate the meeting to discussion of tree impacts in the park planning process.**
4. Possible to have Angela Gupta present to the MTAC? **MacDonagh will contact her for January or February.**
5. Booth will discuss with Sievert about how the Park Board's priority will be addressed.
6. **October 20th meeting: Meet at 4:30 pm (base on the daylight factor). MacDonagh will send a note with details.**

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission's Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.
Respectfully submitted: Carol Sersland – Commission Secretary