

MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of July 18, 2024

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 July 18, 2024, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Co-Chair Giuseppe Marrari (District 2), Billy Menz (MPRB Commissioner, District 1), Mary Bolla (District 4), Barb Schlaefer (District 6), Co-Chair Tim Keane (At-Large), Steve Nicholson (MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee), Don Willeke (Mayor's Representative), Steve Collin (Public Works), Katie Cashman (City Council, Ward 7).

Not in attendance: Carol Sersland (District 5), Sydney Schaaf (Mpls Health Department City Trees Program Manager), Peter MacDonagh (U of M liaison), Chris Linde (District 1), Danielle Schumerth (Forestry Outreach Coordinator), Curt Hartog (Public Schools Representative). John Kruse (District 3). Mr. Kruse has submitted his resignation to the Commission.

Guests in attendance: Philip Potyondy (Sustainability Coordinator), Mitchel (Harrison N.A.).

CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES

Co-Chair Marrari called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. **The MTAC meeting minutes for June 20, 2024, were approved as delivered. Discussion followed to attempt to approve and post minutes within a month.**

You can copy the recording information below and share with others

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/WVWOSEHOOMSYSkVBx93y6RxfPXF7Af0p9GEyaedp-7GO8lmhFijtuqya1XfxYJhl.9L125gMho7S2XmN>

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REVIEW ANNUAL REPORT PREPARATION

MTAC members Schlaefer and Marrari

Schlaefer and Marrari presented the progress of the development of the Annual Report. The Report is scheduled to be presented to the MPRB and to the City Council. The slides and script which will accompany the presentation were reviewed.

A discussion ensued on the benefits of the tree urban canopy. Discussion continued with input from MTAC members regarding details to make the presentation as effective as possible. Focus on why trees matter and benefit of healthy tree canopy. Comments proposed adding more emphasis on the battle against invasive species (trees, shrubs, and plants) in the parks' natural areas and additional funding (beyond volunteers) is needed.

Schlaefer and Marrari will have the Report completed for execution to the MPRB August meeting before the Budget planning process starts.

Considerable discussion and feedback followed regarding the highlights of the Annual Report.

- State of MPRB urban forest is healthy. 9,600 trees planted in 2024, but subject to challenges.

- Assist private owners with tree removal. USDA grant (\$8 million), Cargill grant, 20 year assessment option.
- Work to be done in Green Zones.
- Challenges and threats. Insufficient funding, external agencies, impacts large events (soil compaction), invasive plants.
- Encourage MPRB and Minneapolis Council pass specific resolutions protesting Hennepin County, Met Council and MnDOT removing canopy trees.
- Private urban forest is challenged.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission's Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m. Motion by Keane, second by Schlaefter to adjourn to August meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Tim Keane– MTAC Co-Chair