

**Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC)**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.**

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis MN

Virtual by Zoom Video Call (See Below for ZOOM Link)

**AGENDA**

- 5:30 **MTAC February 20, 2025: MTAC Co-Chair Marrari.**  
-Call to Order.  
-Acceptance of January, 2024, MTAC Minutes by Co-Chair Keane.
- 5:35 **Discussion on secretary appointment: Co-Chair Marrari and Co-Chair Keane**
- 5:40 **MPRB Forestry Update: Assistant Superintendent of Environmental Stewardship Jeremy Barrick**
- 5:50 **City Trees Update: City Trees Shahin Khalili**
- 6:00 **Biochar Presentation: Carbon Sequestration Program Manager James Doten**
- 6:25 **2025-2026 MTAC Goals discussion**
  - Vacant tree care professional discussion
  - Lock in tree lot tour for April 17
  - Continuation of discussion from January meeting and minutes
- 7:00 **MTAC Adjourn: MTAC Co-Chair Marrari**

***Proposed MTAC Meeting Dates in 2025 (3rd Thursday of Month)***

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 16  | July 17      |
| February 20 | August 21    |
| March 20    | September 18 |
| April 17    | October 16   |
| May 15      | November 20  |
| June 19     | December 18  |

**MTAC MEETING ZOOM LINK**

Join ZOOM MTAC Meeting: Cut & Paste Into Your Search Engine to Open Zoom. Double Click. Launch ZOOM.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91460218943?pwd=MVpLcFUvMS9oVy8ydi9uTnBpdmkvdz09>

Meeting ID: 91460218943

Passcode: 3800

One tap mobile

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1. Citizen Representative – At Large: **Erika Commers**
2. Citizen Representative – MPRB Commissioner District 1: **Drew Peterson**
3. Citizen Representative – MPRB Commissioner District 2: **Giuseppe Marrari\***
4. Citizen Representative – MPRB Commissioner District 3: **Karl Kusow**
5. Citizen Representative – MPRB Commissioner District 4: **Mary Bolla**
6. Citizen Representative – MPRB Commissioner District 5: **Tim Keane\***
7. Citizen Representative – MPRB Commissioner District 6: **Barb Schlaefer**
8. MPRB Commissioner – District 1: **Meg Forney**
9. City Council Member or designate: **Katie Cashman** – City Council Member / Ward 7
10. Tree Care Professional member: **VACANT**
11. Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee member: **Steve Nicholson**
12. City Trees Program Coordinator: **Sydney Schaaf**
13. Business / Development representative: **VACANT**
14. MPRB Director of Forestry: **VACANT**
15. City Public Works representative: **Steve Collin**
16. Mayor or designee: **Don Willeke**
17. University of Minnesota representative: **Peter MacDonagh**
18. Minneapolis Public Schools representative: **Curt Hartog**

Parking Lot:

Topics to discuss and perhaps break into subcommittees (Please note subcommittees should be able to deliver action items and a plan to present to the park board)

- Annual Report
- Budget for tree planting and stump grinding
- Park usage and compensating for damage to trees
- Natural Areas
  - Protection
  - Preservation
  - Maintenance
  - Improvement
- Fill the vacant seats in MTAC
- [Meg Forney] Be proactive in Blue Line Extension Project
  - Be involved in planning, and understanding the tree impact (Involve Craig Pinkala)
- [Meg Forney] Discuss memorial trees and benches and expand the program's visibility.
- [Tim Keane] Advocacy towards public groups and getting them to give more credence to the importance of trees through canopy preservation and expansion
- [Tim Keane] Advocate for a MPRB position that searches for grants and funding for MPRB projects RELATED TO TREE EXPANSION

I also talked to Noah DeVlaminck about the vacant Tree Care Professional position. Noah is a new forester at Tree Trust and we have been working with him very closely since last spring planning our City Trees Lotteries and commercial property planting program. He has been great to work with. Noah said he is going to plan to attend February or March's meeting to learn more about MTAC. Just wanted to give you a heads up about the guest.

I want to introduce you to Erick Lopez, an arborist at Birch Tree Care. Erick and I met last summer, and he is interested in the vacant Tree Care Professional position on MTAC. We met last week to talk a bit about it and I told him I would pass along his information and share his interest in the position with you.

Birch holds the contract with the City's Regulatory Services department for hazard tree inspections, and Erick is the lead for that work. We have worked with him on a gravel bed installation at Oak Park along with Project Sweetie Pie, and Birch was also awarded one of the five contracts for City Trees Outreach Grants. Erick is leading a series of educational community workshops through that grant.