

MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2025

Held in person and 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 June 26, 2025, at the MPRB Headquarters, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Co-Chair Giuseppe Marrari (District 2), Karl Kussow (District 3), Co-Chair Tim Keane (District 5), Barb Schlaefer (District 6), Erika Commers (At Large), Steve Nicholson (Minnesota Shade Tree), Don Willeke (Mayor's Representative), Meg Forney (MPRB Commissioner), Peter MacDonagh (U of M Liaison), Chris McMasters, Forestry Director.

Guests in attendance: Noah DeVlaminck (Tree Trust), Erick Lopez (Birch Tree Care), Jeremy Barrick (MPRB).

CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES

Co-Chair Marrari called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

INTRODUCTION AND APPOINTMENTS

Co-Chair Marrari went around the meeting with introductions of all in attendance. Marrari solicited volunteers for Secretary. Co-Chairs to continue to serve as secretary. Keane offered for approval meeting minutes of March, April and May meeting minutes with Co-Chair Marrari. Motion passed.

MPRB FORESTRY UPDATE

Chris McMaster provided an update on recent and upcoming events.

Forestry Update

- Planting is done, now on maintenance and pruning
- Catalpas and Elm are showing signs of concern, Forestry is watching this
- The stump backlog is 7000, 6000 are in need of a contractor, and 1000 are able to be done in house
- Stump backlog is not preventing the department from planting trees
- 500k grant was applied for, most of this will be used to grind stumps.

City Trees Update

- Tree distribution went well, 1500 trees given out
- Leaf and Learn was held on June 21 at Utepils, very successful
- Tree regulatory services is being moved to the city, instead of contractors
- Summer interns started, six week stint.

Annual report update

- Will present outline at next meeting
- Will choose a date.

Natural Area preservation group update

- Discussed better protection for younger trees in playgrounds
 - Cost was discussed, need to tie cost of tree replacement to the cost of protecting them better
- Discussed paying attention to tree species in areas where trees keep getting replaced

- Is that a bad spot for a species?
- Discussed more outreach to community groups in order to increase canopy on private land
 - Private land is a big part of the urban forest

Tree Preservation Group Update

- Action: Change name of Preservation subcommittee to “Tree Preservation Subcommittee”
- Discussed Commissioner Forney and Councilperson Cashman perhaps bringing a resolution to requiring all projects get reviewed by forestry and assessed for tree impact
 - Tie into storm water mitigation plans.
- Steve Nicholson may give tree preservation ordinance writing presentation
- Discussed storm water drainage and the fact that trees aren’t included
 - Need to talk about trees being part of storm water drainage mitigation

MTAC Vacancies

- Public Schools
- Public Works
- Tree care professionals
- Development/business representatives

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marriari concluded meeting at 7:21 p.m. to adjourn to July 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted: Tim Keane and Giuseppe Marrari – MTAC Co-Chairs