

# **MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes of May 15, 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 May 15, 2025, at the MPRB Headquarters, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Co-Chair Giuseppe Marrari (District 2), Karl Kussow (District 3), Mary Bolla (District 4), Co-Chair Tim Keane (District 5), Erika Commers (At Large), Katie Cashman (City Council), Don Willeke (Mayor's Representative), Meg Forney (MPRB Commissioner), Peter MacDonagh (U of M Liaison), Chris McMasters, Forestry Director.

Guests in attendance: Noah Devlaminck, Erick Lopez, 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.

Co-Chair to serve as secretary. Keane reported preparation of March and April meeting minutes with Co-Chair Marrari.

Introduction of new forestry director Chris McMasters, most recently with Dallas Park & Rec.

### **MPRB FORESTRY UPDATE**

Chris McMaster provided an update on recent and upcoming events, introducing Danielle Schurmer.

- Arbor Day well attended
- Volunteer watering – Elliot Park
- MN Tree Climbing Championship – Wirth Park
- Tree lot tour - Craig Pinkalla - April 17
- Arbor Day Celebration – Kenny Park – April 25
- Crews pruning season
- Whittier and Waite Park – kid climbing
- Stump grinding behind – cost/budget issues
- McMaster to update MTAC on stump backlog
- Met Council grant request

### **City Trees Update: Sydney Schaaf**

- Tree ordinance development – still waiting on consultant; draft anticipated later in year
- Tree sale pick up May 30, 31, June 1
- Tree planting demonstration

**MTAC Vacancies**

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

**2025-26 MTAC GOAL DISCUSSION**

- Vacant tree care professional
- Forney – like to see more fruit trees, especially at schools
- Working with Health Department
- Marrari to pare down goals

**Subcommittee Updates**

- Tree preservation subcommittee – Erika Commers  
Issue: Stormwater retention v. trees – Sydney to follow up with CM Cashman
- Annual Report
- Stump grinding funding
- Public project early engagement

**ADJOURNMENT**

The MTAC Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Chair Marriari concluded meeting to adjourn June 12 or 26, 2025.

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