

Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC)

March 19, 2026 – 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 March 19, 2026: Interim Chair MacDonagh**
- Call to Order.
- Approval of February 2026 Minutes
- 5:35 **MPRB Forestry Update: Christopher McMaster**
Open Position Updates
- Business/Development Representative Intro (Michael Keenan)
- Shade Tree Advisory Committee Member
General Update Forestry Department, what does Forestry do?
- 5:50 **City Trees Update: Sydney Schaaf**
- General introduction on what “City Trees” does
- 6:15 **General Topics**
Reminder Move to Teams from Zoom
Reminder April meeting is at the tree lot. Same Time.
Update from subcommittees
-Tree Preservation
-Natural Area Preservation
Comments on Annual report major topics
1. Request permanent funding for tree purchase and maintenance
2. Tree preservation that is complimentary to city development
3. Tree canopy restoration and enhancement in natural areas (areas outside of parks and boulevards)
- 7:00 **MTAC Adjourn: Interim Chair MacDonagh**

Proposed MTAC Meeting Dates in 2026 (3rd Thursday of Month)

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

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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+13462487799,,91460218943# US (Houston) Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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 Kussow**
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 – **Dan Egelhart**
9. City Council Member or designate: **Elizabeth Shaffer (elizabeth.shaffer@minneapolismn.gov)**
10. Tree Care Professional member: **Shared with Noah DeVlaminck and Erick Lopez**
11. Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee member: **VACANT**
12. City Trees Program Coordinator: **Shahin Khalili | Community Forester**
13. Business / Development representative: **Michael Keenan, Director of Design, for Urban Ecosystems Inc.**
14. MPRB Director of Forestry: **Christopher McMaster**
15. City Public Works representative: **Ethan Van Offelen, Transportation Engineering and Design, and Ahmed Omer Transportation Maintenance and Repair**
16. Mayor or designee: **Don Willeke**
17. University of Minnesota representative: **Peter MacDonagh**
18. Minneapolis Public Schools representative: **Dan Goemann**

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.