

Hartford Tree Commission

Meeting Notes

April 3, 2019

Attending: Heather Dionne (DPW), Charmaine Craig (Vice Chair), Jack Hale (Chair), Vanessa Walton, Kailey Townsend, Jim Del Visco, Chris Goodwin, Greg Secord, Grace Yi, Chris Hayes, Chris Donnelly

Meeting called to order.

Rotating Secretary:

Mr. Hayes volunteered to take the minutes for this meeting.

Welcoming of New Members:

Chair Hale welcomed Mr. Secord and Mr. Hayes to the Tree Advisory Commission. This was the first meeting of the tree commission since they were appointed.

Review of March Minutes:

Mr. Secord gave a motion to accept the March minutes. Mr. Hayes seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

City Forester's Report:

Ms. Dionne gave the Forester's report. She noted that March had been a busy month. An issue with the 311 computer system was found but Ms. Dionne was working with other staff to resolve the issue. There are currently 35-40 open 311 cases. Vice Chair Craig voiced her continued concern that more trees need to be planted in the City. All in attendance agreed that tree plantings needed to be a serious priority. Ms. Dionne suggested that a sympathy card be sent to Cliff Collins, a former member of the Forestry Crew, whose wife recently passed away. The need to reinstate the Forestry Crew was again discussed and the commissioners hope that the Mayor's budget will include such funding.

Tree Master Plan:

Chair Hale proposed updates to the 2019 Tree Plan based on feedback from DPW. Mr. Hayes made a motion to adopt the additions. Vice Chair Craig seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Communications:

Chair Hale brought the commission up to date on efforts to better communicate with the general public and interested residents. The Facebook page Capital Forest was up and running and was showing strong popularity. Chair Hale and Ms. Dionne had visited both the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and ACOTE. Chair Hale wrote a small piece for the Hartford News and was expecting to also have some information in the next City of Hartford e-newsletter. Ms. Li offered to also include the article in the Sustainability Newsletter.

Keep Kids Cool:

A new MOU between the City and Knox Inc. was being finalized so that the Knox Tree Crew could finish planting the trees that were a part of the Keep Kids Cool grant. Mr. Goodwin expressed to the commission how excited he was to get the crew planting again.

City Tree Working Group:

It was decided that the April City Tree Working Group meeting would be postponed until the first week of May.

Earth Month:

Ms. Yi made the commission aware of the different activities going on throughout April to celebrate Earth Month. The City of Hartford's Office of Sustainability organized these events, which included rain barrels and energy audits.

Meeting adjourned.