

Department of Planning and Development

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Gwinnett County Tree Advisory Committee
Monday January 9, 2017
at 6:00 p.m.
One Justice Square
446 W. Crogan Street, Lawrenceville
Conference Room B, 2nd Floor

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TAC MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Odum
Chris Barneycastle
Carol Hassell
Hilary Wilson
Dennis Billew
Patrick Kien

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Edwards
Tommy Loggins

STAFF PRESENT

Susan Owen, Planning & Development
Patricia Huguenard, Planning & Development
Cyndi Sloan, Development Review Manager
Adena Fullard, Plan Review Manager

GUESTS PRESENT

None

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m.

2. Determination of a Quorum (6 Members Were Present)

It was determined that there was a quorum.

3. Action Upon the Minutes from the Previous Meeting

November 14, 2016 minutes were amended and approved. Dennis Billew motioned; Carol Hassell seconded. Motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

4. Announcements

Patricia Huguenard announced Terry Baker's resignation. He was appointed in January 2005. Terry Baker has decided to pursue other things in his life at this time.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

6. Old Business

Cyndi Sloan presented feedback for the potential Gwinnett County Certified Arborist Position.

- Cyndi Sloan and Patricia Huguenard took Committee's questions to Kathy Holland and have answers to some of the questions.
 1. Are we enforcing requirements and meeting the intent of the Ordinance? We are
 2. Is it in the budget to create this new position? It is not. New positions must be justified and approved by the County Administrator prior to being included in the next year's budget.
 3. Who will write the job description, responsibilities, and salary range? Kathy Holland requests from the Committee a complete package to present to the County Administrator to show that there is a need for this position if the TAC wishes to pursue.
 4. Will the staff support the hiring of this position? The staff of Planning and Development is not opposed to the creation of a full-time arborist position but feel they may not be able to justify the position since the requirements and intent of the UDO are currently being met but would support the position in the County with other responsibilities.
 5. Who (Department) will this position report to. Could this position be more valuable if created under Community Services (Parks) or Facilities Management (other county properties)?
 6. Will this arborist position be a full-time position?

- At this time, Gwinnett County has two certified arborists in Development Plan Review and one certified arborist in Development Inspections.
- The vacant inspector positions that are being filled do not have a requirement for a certified arborist; however, it is preferred.
- The Committee feels there is some resistance with having this position.
- The Committee agreed if there is not a department that is willing to stand up and say this will truly benefit the County, it is not likely that the position will be approved and budgeted; therefore, we are dropping the idea. Patrick Kien motioned; Hilary Wilson seconded. Motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

Carol Hassel provided a Science Daily handout on the Chinese Elm trees linked to pollen.

- After much discussion among the Committee and staff, the proposal to remove the Chinese Elm from the Gwinnett County Tree Species list has been withdrawn. Hilary

Wilson motioned; Dennis Billew seconded. Motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

7. New Business

Election of Officers

- Hilary Wilson nominated Chris Barneycastle and Carol Hassel seconded. Motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0.
- Dennis Billew nominated Hilary Wilson and Carol Hassel seconded. Motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0.

Street Trees in Conservation Subdivisions

- Patricia Huguenard and Cyndi Sloan met with Kathy Holland and the Department of Transportation.
- The main problem with street trees is the roots to the trees are uplifting the sidewalks and the buses are hitting the limbs to the trees.
- The Tree Advisory Committee could look at the root systems of some of the trees and make suggestions based on our current tree list to see if there are any trees on the list that may have aggressive root systems that could be removed from the list.
- Street trees are required to be planted within five foot of the front property line on the property.
- DOT wants to make sure that trees being planted now do not pose a problem with lifting sidewalks.
- Patricia Huguenard will send members the tree list and the detail of where trees are being planted.

8. Adjournment (7:07p.m.)

Hilary Wilson motioned; Patrick Kien seconded.
Motion carried unanimously with a vote of 6-0