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**Tree Advisory Committee Minutes  
Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00pm**

One Justice Square  
446 West Crogan Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Conference Room 106  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

**Present:** Hilda Estrella de Lev, Patrick Carey, Patrick Kien, Roxanne Raven, Steve Sappington, Thomas J. DeAngelo

**Absent:** Jodyann Benjamin

**CPL:** Chiraq Date, Rebecca Keefer, Richard Edward, Tuman Hu (InterDev)

**Staff:** Rinda Grooms, Sharon Cook, James Hornbeck, Patricia Huguenard, Calvin Kom

**A. Call To Order**  
6:01pm

**B. Determination of a quorum**  
A quorum was present.

**C. Announcements**

**D. Adoption of the Agenda**  
{Motion to Approve: Patrick Kien; Second: Steve Sappington; Vote: 6-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes; Patrick Carey-Yes; Patrick Kien-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes}

**E. Approval of the Minutes – September 9, 2024**  
{Motion to Approve: Steve Sappington; Second: Thomas DeAngelo; Vote: 6-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes; Patrick Carey-Yes; Patrick Kien-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes}

**F. Old Business**

**a. Front Yard Tree Program Update**

Patricia Huguenard presented. The next phase of the program requires the Department to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain a company that can successfully administer and execute a front yard tree program for the unincorporated portions of Gwinnett County. After management has reviewed and a draft is ready it will be sent to the committee for review and comment.

**G. New Business**

- a. Tree Ordinance Rewrite and Tree Canopy Assessment Status presented by CPL and InterDev

Chirag Date with CPL summarized the activities from the October 19, 2024, Community Block Party at Alexander Park and presented the public's comments regarding their thoughts on removal of trees, protection of trees, and how trees benefit them and their communities. The feedback will be utilized in development phase of the rewrite.

Major take aways include:

- Balancing preservation of trees with new developments
- Prioritize native species
- Stricter rules for tree removal if alive and healthy
- Safety of people ranked higher in priority over removal of trees
- The attendees were generally very happy that County was doing this activity to engage the community and gather feedback.

Tunan Hu with InterDev summarized the tree canopy assessment progress to date for unincorporated portions of the County. The land area has been divided into 40 tile segments and each tile will be studied for 2005 and 2023 data resulting in the percentage of loss or gain of tree canopy. This data directs the changes to the tree ordinance.

- b. Tree Types for Front Yard Tree Program

Patricia Huguenard showed slides of a wide variety of tree types; fall colors, spring blossoms, habits of growth, and mature size to facilitate discussion of what types of trees may be chosen for the Front Yard Tree Program with special consideration given to size of lot, location of tree in proximity to utilities and structures.

**H. Other Business**

- a. Staff Report

Patricia Huguenard highlighted the new action items.

**I. Adjournment**

7:30pm

{Motion to Approve: Steve Sappington; Second: Patrick Kien; Vote: 6-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes; Patrick Carey-Yes; Patrick Kien-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes}