
**Tree Advisory Committee Minutes
Monday, June 30, 2025, at 6:00pm**

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

Present: Hilda Estrella de Lev, Nicola McIntyre, Roxanne Raven, Steve Sappington, Thomas J. DeAngelo, Traci Leath

Absent: Jodyann Benjamin, Patrick Carey

Staff: Rinda Grooms, James Hornbeck, Calvin Kom, Patricia Huguenard

A. Call To Order
6:00pm

B. Determination of a quorum
A quorum was present.

C. Announcements
The Chairwoman, Roxanne Raven, welcomed Traci Leath as the newly appointed member representing Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.

D. Adoption of the Agenda
{Motion to Approve: Traci Leath; Second: Steve Sappington; Vote: 5-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes, Nicola McIntyre-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes}

E. Approval of the Minutes – May 5, 2025
{Motion to Approve: Steve Sappington; Second: Hilda Estrella de Lev; Vote: 5-0: Nicola McIntyre-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Steve Sappington-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes; Traci Leath-Yes}

F. Old Business
The Consultant, CPL Architecture, Engineering, Planning presented the key findings from the Tree Canopy Assessment Report.

- Between the years 2005 and 2023 the unincorporated areas of Gwinnett County comprised of 257 square miles experienced a gained of 2.7% tree canopy overall.
- The number one factor of gain is natural tree growth in parks and low-density residential areas combined with the span of 18 years.
- The most tree canopy loss was recorded in single-family residential development with a 38.21% decline between 2005 and 2023.
- Multifamily development experienced a 19.18% decline in tree canopy within the same period.

CPL presented the key points learned from community outreach which included community meetings, small group stakeholder groups and individual stakeholder interviews.

- Prioritize preservation of trees over replanting new trees.
- Enhance tree canopy and incentivize native trees.
- Preserve old-growth specimen trees and increase recompense penalties.
- Prioritize larger areas of more diverse groups of trees.
- Update Gwinnett County Tree Species list.
- Provide more shade in parking lots and along streets.
- Provide flexibility of adding trees to other lots if there are space restrictions.
- Provide corridors of trees through developments.
- Establish tree preservation zones.
- Preserve unimproved land.
- Incentivize redevelopment of abandoned strip malls and similar lands.
- Recommended incentive ideas included:
 - higher Tree Density Unit credits when preserving trees
 - reduced building permit fees to home builders for planting additional trees
 - tax credits partnering with other County departments
 - stormwater credits
- Establish partnerships with power companies.

Next Steps:

- The Tree Ordinance Review Technical Committee meeting is July 7, 2025.
- The final community meeting will be held on July 23, 2025, at the Pickneyville Community Recreation Center from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.
- CPL will continue to work on the revised ordinance language and the Executive Summary document.

G. New Business

No new business

H. Other Business

- a. Staff Report: Orientation to the TAC took place on June 26, 2025, for Traci Leath.
- b. Front Yard Tree Program: Revised with plans to begin the program in the fall of 2025 with a soft start that would prepare the webpage asking homeowners for applications. This would establish a baseline for the price agreement.
- c. The next TAC meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025.

I. Adjournment

7:06pm

{Motion to Approve: Thomas J. DeAngelo; Second: Steve Sappington; Vote: 5-0: Hilda Estrella de Lev-Yes; Nicola McIntyre-Yes; Roxanne Raven-Yes; Thomas DeAngelo-Yes; Traci Leath-Yes}