

## **Tree Conservation Commission Business Meeting Minutes**

City of Atlanta

City Hall

Arborist Division, Suite 3800

Conference Room

October 17, 2018

**Commissioners present:** Sarah Boles, Nabil Hammam, Bruce Morton, John Rains, Stephanie Stuckey, Elizabeth Ward

**Staff present:** Kathy Evans, TCC staff

1. Review of September minutes. Approved by all present.
2. Commission Membership. Welcome to Stephanie Stuckey.
3. Arborist Division Update. Open position for landscape architect/arborist plan reviewer. Stephanie Stuckey requests job description to distribute to networks (will request from D. Zaparanick).
4. Tree Conservation Commission round table to discuss ordinance improvements. Date not yet scheduled, per John Rains. Will request meeting with Biohabitats, consultants working to update tree ordinance. Requesting two meetings: 1) ideas for improvements; 2) case studies to assess impact of improvements.
5. TCC supports pre-review process. Other municipalities in area require something similar. This would be proposed as minor revision to ordinance.
6. Request additional training for Tree Commission in January. 1) Law Department – briefing on hearing procedure, plan review (status of trees), “takings” definition and ordinance issues, licensing of tree companies. Do citations require personal observation of responsible party removing trees? 2) Zoning Department – briefing on “Zoning 101” Schedule in Jan or Feb.
7. Projects update: Satellite imagery pending. Working with Procurement for approval of quote for consultant to conduct analysis. Recommend adding language in tree ordinance to conduct periodic updates (this was recommended by administration in 2014).
8. Illegal tree cutting. Members discussed methods for addressing tree companies that work without permits. Are tree companies required to obtain business license? Will discuss with Law Department.
9. Old Business. “Frivolous” appeal discussion. Decision should be independent of outcome of hearing, but decision is based on meeting minimum bar to be heard. Voted to hear 627 Robinson appeal (requested to dismiss).