

Town Tree Advisory Committee - Meeting Minutes

Date: 8-24-25

Location: Vienna Community Center

Next Meeting: September 18, 6:30 PM at the Community Center

1. Public Comment / Observations

- **Miguel Ordonez:**
 - Noted successful tree preservation in new developments (e.g., Center/Oak).
 - Positive example: extra trees planted on Park Street near Moore
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2. Approval of Prior Minutes

- Approved with amendments:
 - Change meeting dates to August.
 - Update Doug's role: Developer Outreach Subcommittee / Support to Planning Commission for zoning code issues.
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3. Committee Updates & Announcements

- "Save Vienna Trees" signs distributed.
 - Jeremy noted Owen is transitioning into Melanie's role; patience requested.
 - Matt is currently focusing on other quadrants; SW work starts in 2027.
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4. Agenda Items

A. Semi-Annual Report

- Jeremy reviewed draft; waiting on final report from HR.
- Discussion of Rotellus staffing study (maintenance, urban forestry, parks).

- Disincentives for removing tree protection fencing preemptively are limited in current code. Possible solutions include delaying occupancy permits.
- Some developers are repeat offenders; enforcement tied to current staffing.
- Ordinance states fencing stays up for project duration, with required notification.
- Roxanne asked about urban forest consultant availability.

Dominion Energy Project:

- Vienna has limited say; Matt to represent Vienna.
- Roxanne to revise language in response to Jeremy's softening request.

Other Notes:

- Leslie asked about Mercury report – committee to present in October.
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B. Urban Tree Summit Registration

- Event: This Wednesday
 - Fee: \$89 (by August 1)
 - Action: Send receipts to Jeremy for reimbursement (4+Matt attending)
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C. Tree Giveaway

- **Date:** Saturday, October 18, 8:00 AM – Noon
- Previously managed by CSC, now under this committee.
- Patty gave event folder to Roxanne.
- Roxanne and John unavailable that day.
- Trees to be ordered in early September.

SIDEBAR:

- Karen Thayer + Chris B. partnering with ReLeaf FFX.
- Ken asked about planting instructions – Doug to confirm if posted online.
- Link to Arbor Day Foundation video to be included.

- Tree giveaway: one per person.
 - Write-up on deer protection and bamboo mesh (Doug to assist).
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D. Subcommittee Reports

a. W&OD (Chris, Sandy, Lee, John, Roxanne)

- No updates.

b. UFMP (Chris & Doug)

- Met to discuss goals.
- Awaiting Town Council direction on tree canopy targets.

c. Homeowner Outreach (John & Roxanne)

- Proposal: Encourage shade tree in every front yard.
- Explore 501(c)(3) model for funding (e.g., Earthwell RX, modeled after Casey Trees DC).
- Tree recipients would receive donation-based trees, sign placards.

d. Public Land Planting (Sandy)

- Watering is a major concern at sites like Tapawingo.
- Elks/Fire Station also being evaluated.
- Review required for underground piping and possible BAR oversight.

e. Invasive Vines (Sandy & Lee)

- No updates noted.

f. Builder Outreach (Ken, Roxanne)

- Roxanne reached out to Tim Koski about incentives for developers.
- Question raised about public participation in subcommittee work – potential Open Meeting Law issue.

g. Public Outreach (Roxanne, Doug, Aditi)

- Doug focused on improving website content.

5. Additional Items

- Concern: TAC webpage missing from Town website.
- Town does not currently offer in-house tree health advice (staffing limitations).
- Arborist referrals are given; fee-for-service still a public concern.
- Awaiting clearer direction from Town Council.
- VPIS.org mentioned as a resource.

6. Old Business

- Tree planting counts from Arbor Day to be included in semi-annual report.
- Brochure/publication delayed due to system issues (Roxanne to follow up).

Next Meeting

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 **Community Center**