

**APPROVED Minutes of the Tree and Landscape Board  
City Hall, City of College Park  
Sept. 16, 2015**

<u>Term Exp.</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
N/A	Brenda Alexander, Public Works Deputy Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A	Steven Beavers, Planning Dept. Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8/30/2017	Eric Hoffman, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11/30/2016	John Krouse, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4/30/17	John Lea-Cox, City Forester	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8/30/2017	Christine O'Brien, member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A	Terry Schum, Staff Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9/30/2016	Joseph Smith, Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10/31/2016	Mark Wimer, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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N/A	Laura Salers, Contract Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mr. Krouse called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

- 1. Introductions:** Mr. Krouse asked everyone to introduce themselves and share their interest in the TLB.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the July 15, 2015 meeting were reviewed and several corrections were made.

**Motion:** Approval of the July 15, 2015 TLB meeting minutes with corrections.

**Moved:** Mr. Wimer                      **Second:** Mr. Hoffman  
**Aye:** Unanimous                      **Nay:** 0                      **Abstain:** 0

- 3. Review of TLB Charge:** After review and discussion, the TLB proposed the following changes to City Code Chapter 179. Tree and Landscape Maintenance:

**§179-2. C.(5)** Guard ~~all~~ plants against the spread of diseases for pests.

**§179-2. D.** When it is in the public interest, the City reserves the right to protect trees on private lands from diseases, pests or destruction ~~by humans~~.

**§179-5. A(3)** The five Board members appointed by the Mayor and Council shall serve staggered, two-year terms., ~~except in the year the Board is established. In the year the Board is established, three appointments shall be for one year and two for two years. Thereafter, all appointments shall be made for two-year terms.~~

**§179-5. A(5)** The Board shall choose its own officers, adopt its own rules of procedure, subject to approval of the Mayor and Council, and keep an official record of its meetings and

proceedings. A majority of its ~~appointed~~ *voting* members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

**§179-5. B(1)** ~~On an annual basis,~~ The Board shall:

**§179-5. B(1)(b)** ~~Write~~ *Review* plans for the selection, installation and maintenance of landscape plantings and removal of questionable trees, shrubs and ground covers on public ways or public areas within the City limits.

**§179-5. B(1)(c)** Present ~~its~~ plans, *including the Vegetation Management Plan*, to the Mayor and council, which, when accepted and approved by the Mayor and Council, shall constitute the ~~official comprehensive~~ landscape plan for the City.

**§179-5. B(1)(d)** Oversee the administration of ~~the comprehensive~~ *City* landscape plans.

**§179-6.** ~~Comprehensive~~ City landscape plans; costs.

**§179-6. A** The Public Works Director shall be responsible for the installation, maintenance and removal of trees, shrubs and ground covers within the specifications and standards established by the City Forester and the Tree and Landscape Board in accordance with the ~~comprehensive~~ landscape plan.

**Motion:** To amend Chapter 179 Tree and Landscape Maintenance with the changes proposed at this meeting.

**Moved:** Mr. Wimer

**Second:** Ms. O'Brien

**Aye:** Unanimous

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**4. Planning Activities:**

- The storm water project planned for Narragansett Parkway is moving along and should be implemented soon.
- The community garden is having a successful year. Plans are underway to bring a permanent water line into the area.
- The permaculture garden has been weeded. Approximately seventy five percent of the plants have survived.
- A park is planned for the property at the top of Edgewood Road and Route 1.

**5. Public Works Update:**

- Landscape planting beds were weeded at James Adams Park, Cattail Hill and Jack Perry Plaza. Trees and shrubs were pruned at James Adams Park.
- Old Town neighborhood trees and shrubs were pruned for vehicular and pedestrian clearance.
- Dead tree removed on Edgewood Rd. median near 49<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Maintenance tree pruning is scheduled along the west side of Rhode Island Ave. between Blackfoot and Fox streets to improve clearance on service road and bike trail lane on street.

**6. State of Trees Report:**

- Inventory of trees on the City right of ways has been completed, with help from UMD students. There is a great deal of data available for analysis by the TLB.
- State of the Trees Report is in process.
- The findings may aid in encouraging residents to plant trees in their yards to help the tree canopy, which has been declining.

7. **Pepco Tree Pruning:** The TLB informational flyer for residents was presented by Ms. Alexander and several final edits were made.

**Motion:** Approval of Pepco Tree Work in College Park “Be Informed about Your Trees, Know Your Rights” with final edits from this meeting.

**Moved:** Mr. Krouse      **Second:** Mr. Hoffman  
**Aye:** Unanimous      **Nay:** 0      **Abstain:** 0

Ms. Alexander will send this version to Pepco for feedback. If Pepco has suggestions for minor edits, Ms. Alexander will make the changes without further review by the TLB.

Suggestions for upcoming 2016 Pepco pruning schedule:

- Post schedule on City cable channel, directing residents to the City website for more information.
- Create a spreadsheet of trees that should not be touched by Pepco and share it with residents.
- Post the resident’s rights informational flyer on the City website.

8. **Stump Grinding Legislation:** Changes in Maryland law which would allow cities and municipalities to mandate stump grinding in their contracts was discussed. Mr. Beavers will research the status for the TLB. Currently, Pepco does not grind stumps of trees that it cuts down, leaving potential hazards as stumps rot and sink into the ground.

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wimer and seconded by Ms. O’Brien. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next TLB meeting is scheduled for October 21, at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Minutes prepared by Laura Salers, Contract Secretary