

Tree Board  
October 24, 2022

Attending: Kristin Youngquist, Beautie Moore, Lisa Thomas-Cutts, Jeremy Cummings, Tannis Danley and Catherine Trotter

**Old Business:**

Open Positions – Residential and Environmental

- Kristin noted Blake Potter was interested in filling the Environmental position on the Board. His work at Ft. Benning qualifies him to serve.
- Catherine mentioned a call to Morgan Scarbrough to fill the residential building position is pending.
- Kristin rolls off the Board in December, but she will move into the Education position. Catherine has agreed to serve another term.

**New Business:**

Tree Master Plan

- Kristin has successfully converted the 2004 Master Plan into Word and PDF formats. This will allow the Board to more easily review the plan which needs to be done annually. Kristian has access to current pictures and maps that can replace the outdated ones in the Plan.
- Sections of the Plan that particularly need updating are: Community Input, Existing Conditions and Columbus TIP Projects. The tree planting section and planting Priorities sections will need Eric's input.
- It was noted that the area along Golden Park and Victory Drive has had tree growth due to the priorities set in the 2004 Plan.
- Kristin shared 2015 Tree Canopy data with the Board. Jeremy pointed out this information has changed significantly since the storm a few years ago that resulted in dramatic tree loss near the Harris County border. Additionally, there have been several new commercial and residential developments that have built since 2015.

- Kristin will email the newly formatted Plan to all Board members. The following schedule for review was confirmed: November 7<sup>th</sup> – Introduction, November 14<sup>th</sup> – Tree Selection and Planting, December 5<sup>th</sup> – Implementation, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Existing Conditions, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Planting Priorities. An in-person meeting is planned for November 30<sup>th</sup> to review the Master Plan updates.

#### Arborist Update

- The entire Board agreed the Arborist position has been vacant so long that it needs to be addressed by the Consolidated Government.
- Jeremy mentioned he has a meeting with City officials planned in November. He said he would bring-up the Arborist position at that time noting that finding someone to fill that position should be a priority.

The next Board meeting will be January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Master Plan (2004)**

- Kristian has access to this plan in its original format. She intends to convert it to a more current format. She and Eric will review the tree canopy map included in the report and work to update it. Eric's input is also needed on planting recommendations.
- It was suggested that Board members take sections of the report to update. Once the plan is updated it, along with current images, can be used to update the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance – which covers land use and zoning regulations). Eric will email recommendations for the UDO.

Eric reported there have been no applicants for the position openings in his department. He also mentioned if revisions to the Tree Plan or UDO need funding the requests need to be submitted by early April. The budget is usually set by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Tree Board will meet again October 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.