

Tree Board  
October 5, 2023

Attending: Kristin Youngquist, Tannis Danley, Eric Gansauer and Catherine Trotter

## **Old Business**

Open Positions – Residential, Environmental and Education

- Catherine indicated Morgan Scarbrough was interested in serving on the Board. He is in real estate and has experience with residential developments.
- Catherine suggested Nicole Blakemore as the education representative. She is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher at Richards Middle School. Catherine will contact Nicole to see if she is interested.
- Kristin, Jeremy Cummings, Beautie Moore and Catherine Trotter are all due to roll off the Board in December.
- A quorum was not present at the February 9, 2023 Board meeting. Those in attendance discussed the updated tree plan. It was noted that the concerns section should include some language about how trees are selected for planting and that the current urban tree canopy was not healthy.

## **New Business**

Kristin made the group aware of some grant opportunities that were available through the Georgia Forestry Commission – Urban Community Forestry program. Tannis is registered for the Georgia Forestry Commission’s November webinar.

Kristin mentioned the Clean Energy Columbus Resolution that was introduced to the City Council in August. The Council chose to table the issue, but Kristin and Eric hope to have a meeting with Lisa Goodwin with the Consolidated Government to discuss it further. The discussion with Ms. Goodwin will be in regards to changing the tree UDO fees and fines to reflect inflation and current

funding required to meet maintenance and regulation requirements. Preserving the tree canopy is the ultimate goal which in turn will help reduce urban heat and sequester carbon dioxide.

Eric announced the Georgia Tree Council would be holding its annual meeting in Columbus October 24-25. Both Eric and Dorothy Daniels with Trees Columbus are scheduled to speak.

Eric expressed concern over the trees currently surrounding the Government Center. The plan for the new Judicial Center does not include saving the trees. He is hoping to have two 100-year-old oak trees dug and relocated.

The next meeting will be in January 2024.