

**CCG Tree Board Meeting
November 19, 2019
Called Meeting**

The called meeting was brought to order by Chair, Bill Consolletti. Attendees were: City Arborist, Mike Byrd, City Forestry Dept., Eric Gansauer, Jeremy Cummings, Beautie Moore, Catherine Trotter, Kristin Youngquist and Beverly Kinner, Secretary.

The minutes of the October 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The first order of business dealt with an update of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dealing with the Hampton Inn project at 1201 Broadway. A “buy out” check from the builder has been deposited into the City’s Tree Fund. City Arborist, Mike Byrd, suggested that the Board consider increasing the dollar amount formula by amending the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The formula, written 16 years ago, is outdated. This will be addressed further in 2020.

The proposal to increase the planting space for trees adjacent to sidewalks was brought up. Eric Gansauer’s suggestion as to ‘creating a new standard’ in moving sidewalks closer toward the end of the right of way so as to allow for a larger planting site, was briefly reviewed. Basically, this would involve coordination with the City Engineering Department as they would need to incorporate changes into their residential designs. Eric will provide future briefing.

Also discussed was the Permit Application for tree removal by homeowners. Mike Byrd recommends that an appeals process is also needed. He will do some study on this and report to the Board in 2020.

The French & Associates “Street Tree Master Plan” for Columbus is another important area to be reviewed by the Board in 2020. Although still relevant, this plan drawn up in 2004, needs updating. Kristin Youngquist agreed to provide information related to her “Trees Spatial Analysis, Columbus, GA” graduate study thesis prepared in 2015-16. The focus is to weave the current information into the French & Associates plan.

The Board thanked Chair, Bill Consolletti, for his years of service. His term expires December 31, 2019.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020 at 11 AM at the Spencer Environmental Center.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Beverly Kinner