

Tree Board
North Columbus Library
September 3, 2025

Attending in Person: Kristin Youngquist, Catherine Trotter and Eric Gansauer

Attending on-line: Amy Spencer and Lisa Thomas-Cutts

Not Attending: Tannis Danley, Cliff Ruehl, and Rosalyn Hall

Meeting notices were emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

Old Business

- Board Positions - Kristin Youngquist and Catherine Trotter are required to conclude their service on the Board in December. Replacements are needed. Importantly, someone needs to agree to serve as Chair of the Board since Kristin is currently serving in that position.
- Ordinance Updating - As mentioned in the September 11, 2024 minutes, the price for replacement trees needs to be increased to \$500 from the current \$220. Eric has recommended this increase and he has the Board's endorsement for this change. This is section 4.16-D:1 of the Ordinance. Council's approval is needed for the change.

New Business

- American Public Works Accreditation – An interim review is needed in order to maintain the current accreditation. The original Master Plan prepared by French and Associates is 23 years old and some parts are out of date. Some areas of concern that are not getting the attention they need by the companies contracted to maintain them are: Gateways, Round A bouts, Cemeteries, Adopt A Spots, and the Riverwalk. Lisa mentioned Drale Short was sending letters to the “owners” of the Adopt A Spots to determine the current status and to ask if they plan to continue to maintain these areas. The letters should go in the next couple of weeks.

- Master Plan – Kristin pulled up the current Master Plan in order to review the major sections – Gateways, Roads, Parks, and Schools. Eric will review those items listed in the current plan and he will provide a status report for the Board’s review.
- Top Priorities – Airport Thruway and Second Avenue were identified as areas that need particular focus within the next twelve months. Bradley Park Drive, Buena Vista Road and Miller Road were identified as secondary priorities that will need attention in the next 24 to 36 months. Eric mentioned the Gateways Foundation had provided support for the recent replanting that was done at 2nd Avenue and Ft. Benning. Cameron Bean with the Flournoy Company has had some involvement with these projects. It was noted that private money would most likely be needed for the priority areas.
- Grant Possibility – Kristin mentioned Georgia Interfaith Power and Light as a possible grant source for census tracts below median income. She also shared this information with Trees Columbus.

There being no further business Kristin thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Catherine B. Trotter
Recording Secretary