

THE HOBOKEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

City Hall, 94 Washington Street
 Hoboken, New Jersey 07030
 Tel: 201-420-2015 Fax: 201-653-0069

DAWN ZIMMER
 Mayor



Diana Davis, Chairwoman
 Peter Bakarich, III, Commissioner
 Matt Condon, Commissioner
 Peter Cossio, Commissioner
 Amy Sommer, Commissioner
 Patrick Wherry, 1st Alternate

Minutes of the March 14, 2016 Shade Tree Commission Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m.

The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read by the Commission Secretary.

ROLL CALL:

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	
Commissioner Peter Bakarich	✓
Commissioner Matt Condon	ARRIVED AFTER ROLL CALL
Commissioner Peter Cossio	ABSENT
Commissioner Amy Sommer	✓
Chairwoman Diana Davis	✓
1 st Alternate Patrick Wherry	ABSENT

Also Present: Ken Misbrenner, friend of Matt Condon, a landscape architect and arborist considering joining the Commission. Christopher Brown, Designee for Environmental Services; and Daisy Amado, secretary for the commission.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 8, 2016 commission meeting

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich		✓	✓			
Commissioner Condon						✓
Commissioner Cossio						✓
Commissioner Sommer	✓		✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Patrick Wherry						✓

2. Volunteer Events

Commissioner Bakarich discussed Spring planting with Stevens students and provided the following dates: April 3; April 9; or April 16. Commission decided on April 9th for two to three hours in the morning. The exact number of volunteers is yet to be determined. Chairwoman Davis requested the tags which read: 1) not to discard trash and 2) info for new trees. Commissioner Condon advised Dave has these tags made up on placards and he will

follow-up with Dave. Commissioner Bakarich requested Chris Brown set up with Director Pellegrini for Environmental Services personnel, as we had last year, with a truck that can help drive up Washington Street transporting tools to volunteers.

3. CSIP Grant Application

Chairwoman discussed with Director Pellegrini and they agreed to focus on the Eleventh Street island by removing old trees and planting new ones. Director also wants to make sure the bushes are done. Commission will see how far grant money goes on this project. Discussion as to how it will take about \$20,000 to remove the trees alone. Chairwoman advised she was told by Trenton to go with this grant this year and hopefully we can receive a 'bigger' grant next time.

4. Spring Tree Planting

Commissioner Condon mentioned he sent a mock email and received a response from Director Pellegrini (he read the response aloud to the group) indicating he is 'way behind schedule.' Commissioner Condon stated: he has advertised on website and there are about eight to ten people on the list; we should let that populate for the next two weeks; once we start site reviews that will take us up to April 8th; RFQ by April 15; two weeks to bid due April 29; pre-construction gives us two weeks 29th – 13th; and construction starting on the 13th and ending on 27th. Chris Brown advised that Director Pellegrini advised Ordinance going before the Council at the Council's April 8 meeting. Commissioner Condon said there are 30 trees and he is looking for those willing to help out with review process starting on the 25th. He will follow-up with Director Pellegrini to know his schedule on this.

Discussion about charging extra for requests for pits, when you have to open up the sidewalk and actually make the pit. Also discussed: consent form; application to be updated; prices for tree pits; charge \$50 now and perhaps more in the Fall; time to start watering; and time to mulch your pit. Commissioner Sommer suggested Juan Melli, the City's Communications Manager post on social media so residents are aware. She will put something together to be submitted to Juan.

Commission discussed Washington Street and concern of construction. Commissioner Condon will put an estimate together for Washington Street and Commission will figure out whether to work on two blocks or one.

5. Review and Recommendations on: 70 Monroe Street

Commissioner Condon advised his understanding is the trees are at this location for two years and the applicant just needs to close out his files. Per Commissioner Sommer, her only concern is new gas line running through existing tree roots/pits. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission. Decision: approved provided new gas line is not in tree pit.

6. Training workshops suggestions

Chairwoman Davis would like to sponsor training in Hoboken. She asked the Commission to send her suggestions. Commissioner Condon mentioned the open invitation from the Hoboken Garden Club for an hour or so on street tree maintenance/recommendations and the invite is for March or April. Commissioner Sommer suggested training on hazardous tree

identification. Discussion amongst the Commission. Training will be in the Fall on: 1) Proper Tree Maintenance; 2) Identify trees with diseases; 3) Proper way to trim low branches.

7. Public Comments (limited to five minutes per person).

No one from the public appeared before the Commission.

8. New Business.

Chris Brown discussed Hoboken's Green Team and gave out a questionnaire from Phil Jonat of the Green Team to see how we can better work together to achieve mutual goals for Hoboken and increase connectivity. Chris Brown said he can forward a link to all Commissioners on Hoboken's Green Team. Commissioner Condon will fill out survey and circulate to Commission for comments. Survey will be submitted to Chris Brown at our April meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	No Vote
Commissioner Bakarich		✓	✓			
Commissioner Condon	✓		✓			
Commissioner Cossio						✓
Commissioner Sommer			✓			
Chairwoman Davis			✓			
1 st Alternate, Patrick Wherry						✓

Meeting concluded at 8:02pm.