

# **Tree Conservation Commission Business Meeting Minutes**

City of Atlanta  
City Hall  
Arborist Division, Suite 3800  
Conference Room  
June 20, 2018

**Commissioners present:** Sarah Boles, Katherine Moore, Moncia Halka, Nabil Hammam, Marvin Lampkin, Bruce Morton, John Rains, Elizabeth Ward

**Staff present:** *Arborist Plan Reviewers:* Michael Browning, Sean Gaynor, Marty Ussery

*Field Arborists:* Andrew Bedson; *TCC Staff,* Kathy Evans.

**Guests:** Tony Giarrusso, Georgia Tech; Neil Norton, Private Arborist

1. Welcome
2. May minutes reviewed and approved by those present.
3. Arborist Division Update. Full staff. Meghan Chuites returned from parental leave. Expect to post new Arborist Plan Reviewer position.
4. Presentation of Tree Canopy Analysis. By Tony Giarrusso, Associate Director, Senior Research Scientist, Center for Spatial Planning Analytics and Visualization, Georgia Tech.
5. Discussion
  - Vacant forested land total approximately 5700 acres (about 14% of city's land). Should be a priority for preservation. Many of these areas zoned industrial or commercial with few limits on imperviousness and few requirements for assessment of environmental/tree impact.
  - Greatest loss observed in single-family neighborhoods.
  - Need to evaluate subdivision process vis a vis tree preservation (many acres of "pipe farms").
  - Need to evaluate Land Disturbance process to avoid leveling out for convenience "to make suitable" which makes tree preservation impossible. Grading limits needed?
  - Need to quantify contribution of trees to storm water management.
  - Goal for increasing or maintaining tree canopy:
    - Move more land into protection status
    - Continue to replant (remaining space is limited)
    - Stop the loss, especially the pattern of loss resulting from larger SF houses in residential zoning areas where majority of the canopy is located.