

Tree Conservation Commission
Business Meeting Minutes
City of Atlanta, City Hall
Arborist Division, Suite 3800
Conference Room
July 18, 2018

Commissioners present: Bruce Morton, John Rains, Elizabeth Ward

Staff present: David Zaparanick, Michael Browning, and Kathy Evans, Arborist Division.

Members of Public: Stephanie Stuckey (presenting about her experience as appellant for 1900 Dekalb Ave, NE, which was withdrawn based upon revisions to plan). Judy Conder, Stephanie Coffin, Andrew Farnsworth, Sharon Doochin, Jacquelyn Howard, Henry L. Parrilla, II, Theresa Cromeans, Raenell Soller, Tricia Appleton, Amy Lanesberg, Gloria Tatum, Bill Torpy.

1. **Minutes.** June minutes were reviewed and approved by those present.
2. **Presentation.** Stephanie Stuckey presented observations based on experience with appeal at 1900 Dekalb Avenue.
 - **Background**
 - Peter Peteet appealed original posting. May 16, 2018 TCC upheld appeal. "...the TCC did not find evidence that the site plan was designed in a manner to minimize impact on existing trees including specimen trees, large individual trees, stands of trees, and trees along the edges of the site." Further, the Commission decided that infrastructure recompense should not be used for the entire site, but that infrastructure recompense should be limited to the "trees removed in the required construction of streets and related infrastructure."
 - A site plan revised to protect additional trees was posted and appealed by Stephanie Stuckey June 25, 2018. After the appeal was filed, additional adjustments were made to preserve additional trees and Ms. Stuckey withdrew the appeal based on the revised plan.
 - **Observations**
 - Pre-review of sketch plat at the beginning is needed (DeKalb county has good language).
 - Tree valuation, such as tree value matrix, would help prioritize trees to be saved and worked around.
 - A minimum frontage/open space for landscaping should be required.
 - Soil health and old/historic trees should have protections.
 - Street trees should be preserved where possible and new developments should leave sufficient space for planting.
 - **Discussion.**
 - How to engage the community earlier?
 - How to identify and protect historical and specimen or high value trees?
 - Coordinate with Watershed early, especially to evaluate flooding.
 - Assessment of dead/dying/hazardous needs clear guidelines.
 - Replacement trees should be diverse and survival rates need to be tracked.
 - Green infrastructure should be emphasized in ordinance (eg. Trees count).
 - Quarterly reports of tree loss are needed.
 - **Other discussion.**
 - Best way to accomplish improvements? Talk with City Council. Participate in UEC process.
 - Quarterly reports on tree loss are needed, per ordinance. S. Coffin states that the reports were available in past, prior to Accela.
 - Suggestion: when next ordering canopy data, include Emory annex.
3. **Old Business.** When are next UEC/Tech Advisory meetings? Have not yet received information about schedule.
4. **New Business.** Hearings (Aug 15 and 22, if required) – E. Ward and J. Rains, both available.