



**Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> floor DPW Large Conference Room**  
**Minutes**

Members in Attendance							
X	Jennifer Arkett	X	Richard Butler	X	Lisa Ceoffe	X	Jamil Bey
X	Matthew Erb	X	Martha Isler - Chair	X	Maribeth Hook	X	Josh Lippert
	Vacant DPW		Mary H. Savage	X	Dan Sentz		Molly Stephany
X	James J. Stitt		Lisa Kunst Vavro		Vacant Mayor's Office	X	Andrea ketzel
	<i>Guest:Erika Strassburger</i>	X	<i>Guest:Derrick Buckner</i>	X	<i>Guest:Anne Kramer</i>	X	<i>Guest:Brain Wolyniak</i>

1. Lisa C. Motioned to Approve Februarys minutes with noted changes; 4.b, Matt Erb and Lisa C. abstained. Andrea Ketzal was present at the last meeting. Under 5. b. Marybeth should read Maribeth. Also 5.a should read Chatham University is requesting a tree donation for the City's Bicentennial celebration. There is a typing error 4.a, all inclusive instead of all inclusine. Date should read 2016 not 22016. Jenny seconded. The motion carried.

2. Lisa C. provided a Code Sub-committee update. The group discussed what the priorities were and what the Davey focus will be. Davey is working on submitting a new schedule for deliverables. Davey will attend the April PSTC meeting. Subcommittee will also schedule interdepartmental meetings with zoning and legal. Dan noted the next meeting is the Monday the 20th of March. Josh Lippert noted that Melody Rocco's seat would need filled due to her leaving DPW.

3. City Forester Report- Lisa had a meeting with the Mayor regarding the 10 year Management Plan and what is needed for implementation. \$100,000 of extra funding was provided to the Forestry Division. Forestry division will be using part of that money to rent a 3rd bucket truck to have 3 full crews.

Forestry Division is wrapping up the contracted pruning of over 60 Oak trees.

Mulch Madness will be held April 15th. Tree plantings done through Tree Vitalize has been put on hold due to the State budget impasse, Forestry is working with neighborhood groups to explain that tree plantings will be postponed until the fall of 2016. There are limited tree-planting projects that will take place this spring. Tree Pittsburgh is working to reach their goal 10,000 trees for the bicentennial

celebration. Public Works is also working on the Penn avenue project in the Garfield corridor to plant trees and add other green infrastructures.

Arbor Day celebration is going to be held on Friday April 29th this year in Market Square. Tree Pittsburgh again is going to be providing the seedlings for the tree giveaway.

Forestry Division is asking for \$1,050 for the Shade Tree Commission to support 5 pruners taking the ISA Arborist Short Course Training to become certified arborists. Jennifer Arkett made a motion to support up to \$1050 for 5 pruners to take the ISA Arborist Short Course. Matt seconded the motion. Dan Sentz wanted to know if this would change the pruners pay status as a city employee. Jennifer A. added it changed their status as a professional. Lisa confirmed that the pruners would stay at the same pay rate. After a lengthy discussion on the benefits of having increasing professionalism by having ISA certified pruners the original motion was amended by Dan Sentz and accepted; the Shade Tree Commission will provide funding for up to \$1050 to fund the testing subsequent to the completion of the ISA Course. The motion carried. Josh Lippert abstained.

5. A lengthy discussion took place regarding storm water money and how it should be used. This issue will be resolved by the administration.

Lisa C. made a motion for \$9,000 from alternative compliance for replacement trees in the Central Business District. Richard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Old Business - The Mayor and The Cultural Trust had requested to add new trees to existing tree pits in preparations for the city's bicentennial celebration, approximately 75 trees. Lisa C. asked the PSTC to cover the cost of \$45,000 for the new street trees. Lisa is requesting to use alternative compliance monies from Piatt Place (\$9,000). as well as support from the Shade Tree Trust Fund and Storm water fund to meet the deficiency. Dan believes the \$9,000 in alternative compliance money should be used for the plantings downtown since that is where the money came from.

Matt Erb made a motion to use half of the emergency fund money to fund to plant trees downtown. Lisa C. Second the motion. A discussion took place regarding the use of emergency funds. The motion failed.

Dan S. made a motion that our total contribution for Central Business District plantings be half of the \$45,000 requested - which will incorporate the \$9,000 of alternative compliance money approved in 5. above with an additional \$13,500

coming from the Shade Tree emergency fund set-aside. Maribeth H. seconded the motion, the motion carried. Josh L. abstained.

#### 4. Tree Pittsburgh Report

Winter pruning crews have been working on newly planted trees. 1,800 trees have been pruned thus far this winter.

Looking to interview tree care candidates by the end of March.

Vine removal workshop in Polish hill was a success. Some of the vines were almost 30 years old. The contract with the city to have goats in parks overnight finally went through.

Some tree plantings will still happen this spring even though the Tree Vitalize funding fell through. Allegheny county health department and some other local groups provided funding. Tree Pittsburgh will work with Allegheny Land Trust to do some larger scale planting projects through Allegheny County.

7. New Business - A lengthy discussion took place concerning Enright Park.

#### 8. Announcements

Tree Give away will be held on Earth Day

Tree planting for the commemorative planting is going to be in the fall.

Richard made a motion to adjourn.