

Park, Greenway and Tree Committee Meeting Summary

May 30, 2007:

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 2, 2007

3. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION: DEVELOPMENT

The Park, Greenway and Tree Committee met on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to discuss how the Tree Ordinance will deal with development (Commercial, Industrial, and Residential). The committee participated in several discussions pertaining to development:

1. Reviewed Tree Committee comments from past meetings: tree plantings, large tree removal, tree inventory, tree list and arboricultural specifications.
2. Discussed likes/dislikes of development.
3. Provisions of excluding bona fide forestry and horticulture from clearing cutting regulations of the ordinance.
4. Speculative grading measures.
5. Touched on buffers.
6. Permits from planning prior to clear cutting.
7. Incentives for saving clusters/islands of trees.
8. Post Construction Ordinance.
9. Disincentives for clear cutting.
10. Shade requirements for zoning districts: shall apply whether being saved, replanted or a combination of both.

Recommendations:

1. Tree Committee voted unanimously requesting staff research possibilities of a temporary moratorium on clear cutting.
2. The Committee would also like staff to look into example incentives for saving clusters/islands of trees.
3. Staff has also been directed to look into location of planting strips within developments.
4. The Committee also voted unanimous requiring a minimum of 6 feet for planting strips in residential development.
5. Planning Department has also been advised to look into disincentives. Each zoning district has a certain percentage of canopy that is required. An example suggested by committee member: if the percent of canopy is existing and cleared the applicant will have to replant twice the percent of canopy required. Another example that was given is that if a heritage tree (greater than 12 inches) is cut the applicant is served a violation of the trees appraisal value.