

**Meeting of the
Landscape Ordinance Committee**

Notes

January 13, 2020

The first meeting of the Landscape Ordinance Committee was held on Monday, January 13th, 2020, in the HR Training Room, UG Level of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 West Washington Street.

Present were Gerry Alfano, Kimberly Barb, Deborah Brown, Judson Clinton, Jason Combs, Keith Francies, Sarah Healy, Allan Hill, Terri Jones, Joel Landau, Christina Larson, Elizabeth Link, Anna George, Nick Piornack, Mark Reaves, Dabney Sanders, Walker Sanders, Tori Small, Jeff Sovich, Judy Stalder, Juhann Waller

Elizabeth Link welcomed the committee and introduced herself. She noted that it has been 10 years since the last update for the ordinance. She asked that phones be put away or silenced, noted progress on a website for the committee, and that meeting notes, agendas and PowerPoints and other visuals would be published there, but email would be used for the first meeting's materials. She then brought to the floor Teresa Lockamy, the facilitator.

Ms. Lockamy introduced herself. She explained the agenda for the meeting, and continued with an overview of the committee charter, responsibilities, and timeline and group work agreements. She opened the floor for questions and there were none.

Ms. Link then discussed the basics of the landscape ordinance and its goals and intent. Walker Sanders asked when the requirement for 1 tree per 12 parking spaces is enforced and whether it is enforced in the CBD. Mrs. Link stated the landscape requirements are for all multi-family, commercial and industrial parking but there are no requirements for landscaping in the CBD.

Judson Clinton was then introduced and discussed the basics of the tree conservation ordinance and the goals and intent. Keith Francies inquired the difference in the terms critical root zone and TCA and how they were used.

Future meeting dates were established on the third Monday of every month at 3pm. Location for these dates TBD. It was confirmed that these dates would not interfere with holidays. Judy Stalder was concerned that the locations might be too far away to be convenient. Juhann Waller stated that if a different location were to be chosen, he would like closer, more abundant parking.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Ms. Lockamy then opened the floor for members to speak on their motivation and interest regarding joining the committee.

Christina Larson stated that she had a passion for native plants, climate change, and biodiversity. She expressed her concern for wildlife protection within the city. She proposed that incorporating green roofs on our downtown buildings be a topic for discussion.

Mr. Waller expressed his passion for resiliency and noted his work with various other ordinances statewide. He wants to see how we can better benefit the community through landscaping.

Joel Landau stated he is on the Community Sustainability Council (CSC), and wants to see how Greensboro can create a built environment that minimizes impacts on our natural environment.

Mr. Sanders stated he is interested in finding ways to incorporate landscaping in CBD from the greenway in. He stated that other cities had more of a healthy tree canopy and wants Greensboro to do the same. He noted that many places in the CBD are nothing but cement and would like to change that. He wants to see how Greensboro can become a national model for balancing suburban and urban development and how trees can be incorporated and thrive.

Tori Small asked if Water Resources will be participating in the committee, as their policies sometimes present road blocks to implementation. Ms. Link stated that Water Resources staff were included in the committee.

Mr. Francies stated he was on the original committee for this creation of the ordinance and that he wants to bring back the ACT board or something similar.

Dabney Sanders stated that she has noticed a lack of trees located in the downtown area over the past 20 years, and that the city is missing opportunities to plant trees. Her professional interest is focused on the impact of the greenway and how we can improve our downtown tree canopy through that project. Her personal outlook regarding incorporating trees downtown in the CBD would allow for more of a walkable community and cycling areas.

Sarah Healy asked if it would be appropriate to bring a Field Operations employee onto the committee for their input. Ms. Link said she would look into it.

Ms. Stalder stated that she wants to ensure there is a housing affordability balance in regards to conserving and restoration of trees for single family developments. She asked if someone from Housing and Community Development could be brought onto the committee.

Ms. Lockamy made closing statements and explained the second meeting agenda. Ms. Stalder then asked if meeting materials could be sent prior to start of meeting. Ms. Link replied the work will be done for that meeting will depend on what gets sent out and what will be posted onto the website after meetings. Ms. Stalder noted that sharing the information in advance allows members to come prepared. Both Ms. Link and Ms. Lockamy agreed to that statement.

Mr. Sanders asked if there was a list of items the city has recommended in regards to what should be looked at for revision, and if members would be able to add their own ideas and topics to future discussions. Ms. Link stated that was on the next meeting's agenda and that any suggestions the committee members had would be heard and discussed.

Mark Reaves asked if meeting invites could be sent for the whole year. Ms. Link agreed to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lockamy thanked committee members for their attendance and input, with no further business, the meeting was then adjourned.