

MINUTES
Tree Conservation Commission Business Meeting
Remote via Zoom
Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 4:45 pm

Zoom Meeting link for joining by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/97544400144#success>

Meeting ID: 975 4440 0144

Dial-In: 301-715-8592, access code: 975444400144#

Commissioners present: Susanne Blam, Jack Cebe, Dina Franch, Katherine Moore, Lawrence Richardson, Chet Tisdale (joined in progress) and Sarah Boles

Staff present: Kathy Evans, TCC staff.

1. **Minutes.** Review July 22 business meeting (special called meeting to review remote hearing procedures) minutes.
2. **Virtual Meetings.** Discussion and review of logistics. Reminder to review files on Sharepoint site.
3. **Hearing Schedule.** Review schedule and confirm availability.
Confirmed for August 19: Cebe, Richardson, Moore, Franch.
Confirmed for August 26: Cebe, Ward, Franch, Tisdale; tentative: Moore, Richardson.
4. **Historic and Landmark Tree Nomination.** Reviewed nomination for Spiller magnolias near Eastside Trail, across from Ponce City Market, on the site of the historic Ponce de Leon Ballpark. <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/sports-outdoor-recreation/ponce-de-leon-ballpark> Commission members present supported unanimously, pending inspection by City Arborist to confirm characteristics and condition of the tree.
5. **Tree Ordinance updates.** Updates provided by Chet Tisdale and members working on update to City of Atlanta tree ordinance. Discussed process and concerns about the effectiveness of proposed standards for protecting existing trees. Goal is to protect high quality trees which will require limiting construction impact on sites. Members expressed particular concerns about establishing a minimum *number* of trees to save on each site, which does not distinguish the varying *quality* of trees and could unintentionally encourage applicants to retain only the minimum number of trees on each site rather than working to conserve the highest number of healthy, high quality trees possible for conditions. Current discussions center around these issues but have not yet established which trees will be defined as high value and how they will be protected during construction. Working to organize “field trips” for key staff and decision-makers to try out tree value matrix and assess how various proposals would work in the field.