Parks & Trees Commission Meeting 5.12.25

Present: Bob Williams, Barbara Cantey, Barb Willens, Diana Wenman, Donna Cox, Michael Eddings, Rickey Macklin arrived at 5:52 pm

Meeting began at 5:39 pm

Diana made motion to approve previous minutes, Barb seconded motion. Commission approved.

Regarding first item on the agenda, Barbara voiced concerns about whether to adopt amendments based on recommendations from the Green Infrastructure Center regarding clear cutting and tree planting in new developments. The Commission agreed that restrictions are needed, but the past issues are related to enforcement, which is also needed.

Question from Barbara about Beechwood, related to the second phase of development at that property → saving those trees? How many? Would existing or new development regulations apply?

Update: 521 Trees at the hotels on the northbound side. Bob reported that, as of the last conversation he had, the City is waiting for a formal plan from Mr. Patel before making any decision. Questions from Commission – Will the City remove existing trees? Mr. Patel pays for planting?

Update: Camden Riverfront Environmental Park Maintenance – still need to identify magnolia tree Bob had previously suggested by removed. Is additional signage required at this park?

Update: 1303 Lyttleton Street tree to come down? Kat reported that it is a matter of getting it on the tree crew’s schedule, which should be soon.

Updates: Signage at Kendall Lake Park closer to entrance; not completed, Kat will follow up. Should include “No Swimming Under 16”

New Board nominations - Lisa Riente was the only application to the commission. She will be approved by City Council to take Diana’s position.

Bob brought to group the suggestion from a citizen for playground equipment at Monument Square

* playground at elementary school is open
* playgrounds at Rectory / Hampton, each a block away
* City working down playground risk assessment, Boykin is next

Kat asked for ideas for Arbor Day – Commission members will consider and bring suggestions to next meeting

Barb pointed out that the area near utility boxes at corner of Lyttleton/Chestnut needs some landscaping, perhaps low lying bushes to provide screen for all the infrastructure.

Commission members asked about watering schedule by City staff, concerns about watering new trees, should be 1 inch/week

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, June 9, 2025.