



## **Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission**

Municipal Association Meeting Space

February 17, 2022

In attendance: Jim Irvin, Russ McKinney, Regina Monteith, Vi Hendley, Scott Holder, Caleb King

A quorum is not present.

**Heat Mapping Application** – The application has been submitted and appears to be a strong candidate for approval.

**Undergrounding Efforts** – CTAC continues to pursue a draft ordinance addressing the undergrounding effort. Once complete, it will be shared with Brennon and Taylor for review and present to legal. Vi will research whether Charlotte NC has an undergrounding ordinance.

**Capitol Mall Undergrounding** – The results of studies are due any day now.

**Supreme Court Parking Lot** – The project is underway. Removal of the pavement is complete.

**Park Planting** – We are waiting a tree shipment. Benedict will not plant trees this year in anticipation of applying for a grant to plant 15 trees completing Charles W. Johnson Stadium Drive. When planning future plantings, we will work closely with Mike Wilson with City Parks and Recreation, planting larger trees of 1” caliper and marking them clearly.

**Crayton-** Richland One and Crayton PTO have given permission to move forward. Awaiting Forest Acres to approve the use of Dominion funds to cover half the cost.

**Tree Fund** – An account number for the Tree Fund has been found by City staff. The current balance is estimated to be \$400,000.00. Jim and Jack will work to ensure the commission has access to the accounting of the fund. CCTAC in turn will make recommendations for relevant funding of projects, for example the Heat Map if the grant falls through.

**Website, Bylaws/Procedures** – Jim will review bylaws from CPAC and the Charlotte’s TAC to develop Bylaws for our review. Scott &/or Jim will send a standing Calendar invite to all members. Jim will reach out to those members that have not been in attendance. Regina will be rolling off as Columbia Green’s

representative. The election of officers is coming up. If anyone would like to serve or has nominations, please email them to Jim and Russ. City's new boards and commissions website has been rolled out. Ashley Jenkins has requested information. Vi and Jim will follow up.

**Street Lighting** – This is a CPAC initiative that has been embraced by the city and is under the direction of Robert Anderson. A contract has been signed by Dominion and the City to replace non-city owned streetlights with LED. The city owned District lighting will be downlit and replaced with LED as well. The warmth, focus & area of the lighting is a concern. Kelvin ratings of 3,000 (amber) are sufficient for neighborhood security, easy on the eye, do not disrupt sleep patterns and are safe for wildlife. Vi will draft an email of support for Climate Protection Action Committee's (CPAC) street light initiative. Jim will send to council, and all concerned. The Dominion Energy annual fee may be helpful in securing funding.

**Forestry and Landscaping** – Memorial Tree grant is moving along. Gervais Street median tree up lighting project is in the planning phase. Elmwood Avenue plantings are undergoing a refresh and renewal with public safety in mind. Smaller trees will be added. Undergrounding has been brought front and center by projects like the Capitol Park undergrounding. Future undergrounding projects are being actively pursued. For example, the Assembly Street medians from UofSC down to Park Street are slated for undergrounding and landscaping to mirror UofSC design. Forestry is affected by 100 vacancies. Sidewalk maintenance crews are moving forward. North Main maintenance is going well. North Main medians and flower beds will be maintained once complete. Park street is near completion and will be maintained.

**Columbia Green Heritage Tree Planting**- Regina reports success in Ward 1. Sabrina Odom Edwards is the neighborhood liaison. Collaboration is ongoing and attempts are being made to include Ward 2, (29203, 29201, 29206 & 29210).

**Enforcement reporting** – Appearance is lacking in certain areas of the city, such as Beltline and Divine Walgreens and the Dollar General on Two Notch & Arcadia Lakes Drive. Litter and garbage inundate the parking lot and grounds. Call David Hatcher Code enforcement at 803-545-3430 Landscaping dying, dumpsters not enclosed? Call Scott. With few exceptions (grandfathered) new or significantly renovated business property must adhere to the new Landscape and Tree ordinance. Partial compliance may have triggered a movement by the business community to have the requirement (which includes trees in parking lots) removed. Scott will keep CTAC updated and encourages commissioners to review upcoming agendas for zoning public hearing.