



**CITY OF WESTMINSTER  
TREE COMMISSION  
MEETING SUMMARY**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 4:30 PM  
Conference Room, Second Floor, 56 West Main Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157**

A meeting of the City of Westminster Tree Commission was held in the second floor conference room at 56 West Main Street, in Westminster, Maryland 21157, on June 12, 2019, at 4:30 PM.

Chair Steve Allgeier, Vice-Chair Cindy May, and Commissioner Tim Bangerd were present. City staff Andrew Gray, Eric Schlitzer, and Samantha Schlitzer were present.

The following members of the public were present: Zach Carnegie, Liz Perkin, Paul Mullins, Jessica Fitzgerald, and Kevin Wagman.

Chair Allgeier opened the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Vice-Chair May made a motion to approve the meeting summary from March 13, 2019. Commissioner Bangerd seconded. The motion passed.

Chair Allgeier opened the New Business Item, Presentation from McDaniel College Student. Mr. Gray introduced Zach Carnegie, who presented his report on "Soil Lead and Salt Levels in Tree Wells Along Main Street." During his research, he compared soil compositions between areas on Main Street and areas within City Park, as well as with other jurisdictions, to show how human activity has affected different areas. He found approximately 1.5 times the EPA recommended lead levels present in the soil of the tree wells along Main Street. Mr. Carnegie proposed channeling water away from the tree wells to avoid run off from the sidewalk, or planting white clover within the tree wells to reduce lead and nitrate levels.

Chair Allgeier thanked Mr. Carnegie for his research and report. He requested the report and pH level information be sent to the Commission members for further review. The Commission will discuss planting white clover in the tree wells to see how it changes the soil composition and if it is a viable solution to the problem. Dr. Perkin added that arthropods in the soil of Main Street tree wells were compared to soil found on the McDaniel College campus. The findings in that study correlated with Mr. Carnegie's soil composition analysis.

Chair Allgeier opened Commissioners' Reports. Chair Allgeier asked Mr. Schlitzer how many open tree pits were located along Main Street. Mr. Schlitzer mentioned that there were several, and he would contact

Miss Utility to locate any utilities that prevent those pits from being filled. If the pits could not be refilled, Chair Allgeier inquired if the replacement trees could be offset to another location within the City.

Chair Allgeier opened Staff Reports, with the first item being the Proposed Tree Replacement at Carroll Arts Center. The Chair asked Mr. Schlitzer about the Zelkova removal in front of the Carroll Arts Center at 91 West Main Street and if the tree will be replaced. Mr. Schlitzer stated that, once he removes the stump, he will request recommendations for a replacement species. Chair Allgeier asked Mr. Mullins for his recommendation; Mr. Mullins replied that he would review the approved species list and report back.

Chair Allgeier asked Mr. Schlitzer about the tree removals along Mulligan Lane and Windsor Drive. Mr. Schlitzer responded that the Homeowners' Association had sent letters to its residents, informing them to remove the street trees and repair the sidewalks. This request was sent without DNR approval, and the contractors who had already performed some work were not licensed tree experts. Mr. Schlitzer contacted DNR, and the project was halted so that the City can work with the homeowners on how to repair the sidewalks without removing the adjacent trees.

Chair Allgeier then opened discussion on the 2018 Forestry Workshop Recap. Ms. Schlitzer provided summary information from the September 26, 2018 meeting of the Tree Commission.

With regard to the Commission Plans for 2019 Forestry Workshop, Ms. Fitzgerald mentioned that Bartlett Tree Experts would handle the bulk of the event planning, and requested that the City sponsor the event through donating the use of the John Street Quarters hall. City staff will coordinate with the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department on this request.

Mr. Gray reported that the 2019 Arbor Day Celebration was well attended by the Boy and Girl Scouts and members of the public.

Chair Allgeier opened the floor to citizen comments. Mr. Wagman commented on the empty tree pits along Main Street. He asked if trees could be offered to the property owners along Green Street if they were not able to be replanted along Main Street. Mr. Schlitzer suggested that there may be grant opportunities available so that the City would not bear the cost of those trees. Chair Allgeier mentioned that the Commission would discuss the subject at its next meeting once more information was gathered.

Mr. Mullins mentioned that he is working with Mr. Schlitzer to hold another bug release in the coming weeks. Ms. Schlitzer suggested coordinating with the Recreation and Parks Department to involve summer camp groups in the event. The Commission agreed and added that the event should be held at City Hall again for plant diversification.

Chair Allgeier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Commission adjourned at 5:23 PM.

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Steve Allgeier, Chair  
Westminster Tree Commission