

**GREENSBORO ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TREES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Advisory Commission on Trees was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 3:07 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 2nd floor, Melvin Municipal Office Building, Greensboro, North Carolina. Members present were: Chair Chuck Truby, Michael Hatcher, Tim Knowles, Tom Hall, Frank Forde, Elaine Stover, Bret Robertson, and Marguerite Suggs. Greensboro Urban Forester Mike Cusimano was also in attendance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Mr. Cusimano stated that the absence of Dr. Snowden was excused.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 4, 2009 MINUTES:

Mr. Hatcher moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting, seconded by Mr. Hall. The Commission voted 8-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Truby, Suggs, Hatcher, Knowles, Stover, Hall, Robertson, Forde. Nays: None.)

ACT MEMBERSHIP:

- **Recognition of Karen Neill's Service to the Commission**

Chair Truby recognized Ms. Neill for her years of service to the Commission. He stated that CPT Engineering will purchase a tree in honor of Ms. Neill and other original members of the Commission.

- **Welcome New Member – Marguerite Suggs**

Chair Truby welcomed the Commission's newest member, Marguerite Suggs, who is filling Ms. Neill's seat. Ms. Suggs gave the Group an overview of her background and experience.

TREE CAMPUS USA:

Commission members reviewed and approved the final version of the letter regarding Tree Campus USA. Mr. Cusimano indicated that he will have the letter typed and distributed.

TREE PRESERVATION AND LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE OVERVIEW AND REVIEW:

Mr. Cusimano stated that the Tree Preservation and Landscape Manual has been revised and he distributed copies to the Group.

Mr. Cusimano gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Tree Preservation and Landscape Ordinance for the benefit of newer members. Topics reviewed included planting yard determinations, tree preservation requirements, exemptions from the Tree Preservation Ordinance, plan requirements on tree preservation plans, flexibility standards, and alternate methods of compliance.

WORKING WITH TREES WORKSHOP UPDATE:

Mr. Cusimano and Chair Truby are in process of arranging the Working with Trees Workshop with Mark Taylor and Karen Neill. Marlene Sanford, with TREBIC, will also be involved in the planning. Chair Truby indicated that the workshop will be a joint effort with the development community. Professional

development credits will be offered for the benefit of engineers and landscape architects. There will also be discussions at the workshop on making the Ordinance more incentive based for developers.

The workshop is tentatively scheduled for August 26, 2009. Speakers are being assembled and Chair Truby encouraged members to share their recommendations. Mr. Cusimano will forward an agenda of the workshop to Commission members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Cusimano updated the Group on the Tree Canopy Study. Data from NC State is incomplete at this time and past the submission deadline. Mr. Cusimano advised members that he is under a contractual obligation and the Tree Canopy Study will be published by the end of April. Members of the Commission will receive a copy of the report prior to publication.

ADJOURN:

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There being no further discussions before the Commission, the meeting ended at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Truby, Chairman
Advisory Commission on Trees

CT/sm:jd