

**GREENSBORO ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TREES
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 7, 2008
(DRAFT)**

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Advisory Commission on Trees was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 3:07 p.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room, Melvin Municipal Office Building, Greensboro, North Carolina. Members present were: Chairman Mark Taylor, Tim Knowles, Emilie Sandin, Karen Neill, Michael Hatcher, Keith Francies, and Dr. Kenneth Snowden. Greensboro Urban Forester Mike Cusimano was also in attendance along with Dick Hails, Planning Director.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ABSENCES:

Chair Taylor acknowledged that Mr. Hall would be absent today, and Mr. Truby would be arriving late.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 5, 2008 AND APRIL 2, 2008 MINUTES:

Ms. Sandin moved to approve the March 5, 2008 minutes as corrected, seconded by Ms. Neill. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Sandin moved to approve the April 2, 2008 minutes as written, seconded by Chair Taylor. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

SUPPORT FOR WESTRIDGE NCO:

Mr. Cusimano presented an overview of the Westridge NCO. He stated that the Westridge NCO has received approval from 91% of the neighborhood. Mr. Cusimano pointed out that the community has identified their tree canopy as being a significant part of the character of their neighborhood. They have chosen to protect it even though they are zoned single family and would not be subject to the city's Tree Preservation Ordinance. Mr. Cusimano stated that the Westridge neighborhood has asked for a letter of support from the Advisory Commission on Trees as they proceed to the Zoning Commission and onto City Council for final approval in June of 2008.

Discussion among Commission members included a concern for the possibility of a resulting patchwork of neighborhoods with different tree preservation rules, the subsequent need for more foresight, along with the overriding effect on underlying zoning the NCO would have on a possible Single Family Tree Preservation Ordinance in the future. Mr. Hails arrived at 3:30 p.m. and answered questions posed by Commission members.

Ms. Neill moved that the Commission supports the Westridge NCO and issues the letter of endorsement, seconded by Mr. Hatcher.

Dr. Snowden suggested that wording be changed in the letter's last paragraph from "inclusion" to "consideration". Commission members supported Dr. Snowden's suggestion.

The Commission voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion. (Ayes: Taylor, Neill, Sandin, Knowles, Hatcher, Francies, Snowden. Nays: None.)

LDO UPDATE:

Mr. Hails gave an update on the Land Development Ordinance to Commission members to answer questions about the process, how tree preservation fits in and at what point, and how the ACT revisions will be incorporated.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chair Taylor stated that City Council member Robbie Perkins informed him that the names of the two replacement members for the Advisory Commission on Trees will be presented at the May 7, 2008 City Council meeting.

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There being no further discussions before the Commission, the meeting ended at 5:14 p.m.

Mark Taylor, Chair
Advisory Commission on Trees

MT/sm:jd