



Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission

August 21, 2025

Minutes

Lisa Ceoffe	Nazin Bagherynejad	Angie Martinez (remote)	Clara Kitongo
Dr. Brian Wolyniak	Zinna Scott	Isabella Gross	<i>Guest: Michael Kelley</i>
<i>Guest: Hana Kneiser</i>			

Old Business:

Lisa opens meeting at 9:12am. Forestry is still finishing up storm response from April 29 storm and will start working on Fall tree plantings.

New Business:

Lisa provides update on NFL Draft. Still negotiating with the NFL on tree removals. Will contact them again to resolve some of those issues with tree planting and replacements. They seem very interested in replanting.

Lisa discusses Executive Session with the Mayor's Office which usually takes place in October. She will reach out to them to see if they want to have the meeting. If so, we can work on an agenda. Unfortunately, the Executive Order was not approved.

Lisa reviews the ReGreen Beechwood Boulevard grant submitted by the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition which involves replacing trees damaged from April storm and those that are aging out throughout the neighborhood – 350 trees. Signed Tree Planting Request forms and a support letter from BikePGH! are included in the proposal (distributed to STC committee for review prior to meeting). There is no specific dollar amount requested and funding would include 50-70 trees every Spring and Fall. Cost could be up to \$300/tree depending on species and would include stakes, mulch and delivery. Phase I cost is approximately \$30,000 and depends on availability of volunteers. Forestry will facilitate the process by dropping off mulch and working with Landforce and other organizations to get the work done. Does the STC want to commit to this project, and if so, how much? We can set aside a specific amount each year or fund the entire cost. Estimated cost is \$132,000 for the first five phases which includes 354 trees. Updates to be given at the end of each Phase. Lisa asks if there is a motion to approve.

Nazin makes a motion to approve initial allocation up to \$132,000 for 354 trees with mulch and stakes, to fund phases 1 through 5, with reporting after Spring 2026, to be utilized over a three-year period to be adjusted if needed after the second year. Phase 6 is to be determined. Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition will have to come back to Commission to review Phase 6.

Zinna seconds the motion.

All in Favor. Motion Passes. Lisa abstains.

Lisa shares recent accolade that names Pittsburgh among the best cities for "tree huggers" by Lawn Love, a lawn care organization. Pittsburgh ranked 20th. The report looked at 14 metrics related to the 500 biggest cities in the United States before grouping them into three categories: tree canopy, urban tree infrastructure and climate.

Approval/Meeting Minutes-June:

Lisa asks if there are any changes to June minutes.

Clara makes a motion to approve minutes.

Zinna seconds the motion.

Motion passes. Minutes approved.

Reports/Community Partners

Clara provides update on Tree Pittsburgh – getting ready for tree planting. There are two plantings in Homewood, one on Hamilton Avenue which is part of the RCC project, and the second one in Homewood Park in collaboration with partners. Also doing lots of flyering and hosting tree tender classes in Homewood. Still working with partners on an orchard in California-Kirkbride. Location may have to change due to soil condition. Also working on tree care in Beltzhoover for trees planted two to three seasons ago. Will share schedule for tree planting at next meeting.

Hana reports on progress of converting vacant lots in the Hill District into green space and asks if it is smart to move forward with the construction that is currently going on. Hana also shares an update on the IRA Grant – things are moving forward – as well as news that the Knoxville Hilltop Alliance lot is clear now and planting will probably be in the Spring 2026.

Zinna talks about traffic calming that was installed at Rosedale and says that it was done without any community input and it is not being maintained - grass is high. Lisa comments that Forestry is trying to put something in the traffic island such as trees and mulch. It is on their radar and is being resolved. Zinna also provides information about the monthly Zone 5 Public Safety meetings that occur the second Tuesday of each month and invites Committee members to attend if they want to share information or bring flyers.

Brian shares information about the Statewide Urban and Community Forestry Conference going online Sept. 17. There should be an announcement coming soon to sign up for the free webinar.

Nazin provides an update on the Broad Street Plaza project on N. Highland. The educational signage is beautiful and includes signage on history and type of plant. It's a nice gathering place. Suggests having similar signage in every city park. Signage designed by Klavon.

Isabella provides information on City Planning's work around greenways. The City is hosting the Greenway Summit with Trust for Public Lands on Oct. 15 at Schenley Ice Rink. The Summit provides a space to convene all nonprofits and greenway groups to gather in one space. There is a greenway tour later in the afternoon. Save-the-date invite coming soon.

Public Comment

In person meeting not available for public comment.

Lisa makes a motion to adjourn meeting

Zinna seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourns at 10:02am.