



Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission

March, 2026

Minutes

Lisa Ceoffe	Kristen Spirl	Angie Martinez	Dr. Brian Wolyniak
James Stitt	Jim Barry	Zinna Scott	<i>Guest: Michael Kelley, Forestry</i>

Lisa opens meeting at 9:06am.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Lisa discusses Arbor Day events at Robert E. Williams Memorial Park (April 11) and West End Overlook Park (April 18). Forestry is requesting up to \$3,200 to support both events. Planned activities include Kids Climb, art cart and giveaway items.

Kristen suggests doing t-shirts or tote bags and recommends increasing the requested amount.

Kristen makes a motion to change the amount requested to support Arbor Day events to up to \$5,000.

Angie seconds the motion. Lisa abstains.

All in Favor. Motion passes.

Lisa provides NFL Draft update. Forestry was inundated with phone calls and emails after the segment about tree removals aired on WTAE news. We responded to calls with positive feedback. Basically, Pittsburgh is getting inch for inch which is more than any other city. We will net way more tree canopy in the end. Zoning is still working with NFL on the private side - close to 100 trees were removed, no more than 12 inches. The good news is that we can reimagine the space. It doesn't have to be the same as it was before. We can leverage grants as well to replace tree canopy. General Robinson Way, Chuck Noll Way and Stage AE tree removal work is done. VisitPittsburgh contracted Adler to do the work. There were 57 trees in the Right of Way – a little over 500 tree inches were removed at \$300/inch. City received a check for over \$150,000. The intention was to increase the size of tree pits there. We will get over 200+ trees for city neighborhoods and parks. There will be a temporary loss of canopy, but will net more trees in the city. Jim suggests putting larger trees by the stadium as trees get destroyed there. Lisa is excited about the Red Bud trees which should be at their peak at the time of the draft.

Lisa discusses Highland Park reservoir workshop at Tree Pittsburgh. A mini charrette was held recently and a lot of the community was there. Topics included revegetation. We can't stop this project but we can come up with something really creative so that in 20 years people will see it was a good thing.

Approval/Meeting Minutes-February:

James makes a motion to approve minutes.

Kristen seconds the motion.

All in favor. Motion passes. February minutes are approved with no changes.

Reports/Community Partners

Jim Barry, Duquesne Light

- Working with Eisler to get trees planted in Robert E. Williams Memorial Park and in Wilkinsburg neighborhood. Also working on pruning and management in Lawrenceville, Hill areas and Carrick. Will continue to work with Michael Kelley to promote reliable service and increase tree canopy for all.

Angie Martinez, DOMI

- DOMI completed its Advisory Group and Complete Street Advisory Policy. It has been ten years. DOMI will be updating the policy and hopes to have it done this Summer. There is room for opportunity for green infrastructure (GI). A review of the policy revealed we fall short with GI stuff. Will get some input from Forestry and partners on this.
- Complete Streets Advisory meeting is the week of March 23. Will send invite to Lisa and Michael. There will be lots of organizations attending. Suggests forming a Subcommittee on Green Infrastructure. There should be utilities on the Committee. Will report back at next PSTC meeting.

James Stitt, Pittsburgh Water

- Moved Stormwater Maintenance staff to Operations. Responsible for maintaining green infrastructure is still a concern for Pittsburgh Water. The other issue is major landslides.

Kristen Spirl, Duquesne University

- Planning Arbor Day tree planting for Green Week with lots of activities.

Brian Wolyniak, Penn State Urban Agricultural Extension

- Symposium is this week
- Participating at Arbor Day in Mellon Park

Zinna Scott, Homewood

- Port Authority is moving the bus stop from Brushton and into Wilkinsburg. Her concern is where are the buses going to sit and idle. The fumes will be bad. Lisa says Forestry will make it a priority to plant trees there.

Public Comment

In person meeting, no members of the public requested comment time.

Kristen makes a motion to adjourn meeting.

James seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourns at 9:46 am.