



Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission

May 15, 2025

Minutes

Kristen Spirl	Clara Kitongo	Dr. Brian Wolyniak	James Stitt
Zinna Scott	Nazin Bagherynejad	<i>Guest: Isabella Gross, City Planning</i>	<i>Guest: Michael Kelley</i>
<i>Guest: Hana Kneiser</i>			

Old Business:

Kristen opens meeting at 9:07am.

Michael provides summary of storm damage from 4/29/25. The City lost about 200 city trees and also private trees. Canopy impact about 5%. A lot of mature trees were lost. Forestry is 90-95% complete with response cleanup. Worked with utility reps to coordinate efforts. Enacted a pilot program for storm damage using chippers from other Divisions to help with clean up. It was a successful collaboration.

Hana reports on Earth and Arbor Day events and shares photos from activities during the 20th Anniversary TreeUSA events. Also provided details on Allegheny Commons being designated an Arboretum. There was lots of community engagement. Michael discusses arboretum plaques and Forestry's arboretum dedication planting.

Approval/Meeting Minutes-March:

Kristen asks if there are any changes to March minutes.

Clara makes a motion to approve minutes.

James seconds the motion.

Motion passes. Minutes approved.

New Business:

Michael shares that bids came back from Highland Park maintenance plan and here was only one bid.

Michael will participate as a panelist on the Climate Resilience Forum with City Leadership which airs on YouTube on May 15 at 2pm.

Kristen discusses ideas to honor STC founder Mary Savage who passed away recently. Clara attended a planting at the YMCA for Mary and has reached out to the library in Homewood about a planting dedication for her.

Brian makes a motion for Shade Tree Commission to do a planting dedicated to Mary Savage.

Clara seconds the motion and confirms Tree Pittsburgh will help facilitate.

All approve. Motion passes to work with partners to do a planting dedicated to Mary Savage.

Reports/Community Partners

Clara reports that Tree Pittsburgh continues with RCC in Homewood. Obtained the estimate for sidewalk work. All of the residents who are interested will get their sidewalk done. Plans are to do more door knocking and more community meetings to get more residents. Tree Pittsburgh has been doing a lot of plantings throughout the city. Also working on California Kirkbride orchard installation. It has a lot of moving pieces and everyone is excited about the project.

Public Comment

In person meeting not available for public comment.

Clara makes a motion to adjourn meeting

James seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourns at 9:50am.