



**Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission**

**November 20, 2025**

Minutes

Kristen Spirl	Lisa Ceoffe	Isabella Gross	Nazin Bagherynejad
Zinna Scott	<i>Guest: Danielle Crumrine, Tree Pittsburgh</i>	<i>Guest: Marcelle Newman, DPW</i>	<i>Guest: Matt Erb, Davey Tree</i>
<i>Guest: Aaron Gorka, DOMI</i>	<i>Guest: Will , Data Services</i>	<i>Guest: Mike , Data Services</i>	<i>Guest: Michael Kelley, Forestry</i>
<i>Guest: Hana Kneiser, Forestry</i>			

**Old Business:**

Lisa opens meeting at 9:05am with introductions. She discusses Street Tree Inventory project and introduces Matt Erb from Davey Tree who does a presentation of the Street Tree Inventory:

- Goal is to keep trees in good condition longer in urban environment
- Pittsburgh is the only city in North America with two scans currently. There will be a public viewing of the program so people can see the trees in their neighborhood
- Uses vehicle-mounted LiDAR technology. It is not intended to replace arborists, but to be used as a tool to assist in determining the condition of trees. LiDAR also collected street and satellite images to further refine species identification
- Partnered with Greehill on how to define Pittsburgh’s Right-of-Way so they can train computer with specific guidelines. In 2023, Davey piloted 80% of Pittsburgh’s trees, and in 2024 they re-scanned the City. They overlaid current inventory over the past and determined 11.5 as the measurement to capture City trees
- Inspected about 15 percent of City’s trees as well as trees in Squirrel Hill that were damaged by the April 2025 storm
- Critical root and fall zone which is a good tool for Michael Kelley so he can help contractors determine if they are permitted to dig
- Trunk Safety Index – will help Forestry determine which trees could be damaged by wind and if a storm is forecast those high-risk trees can be removed to prevent failure
- Tree inventory used to be conducted every ten years. Now goal is to do every two years
- Can assign a work order to trees with issues so Forestry can go out and do an inspection

**New Business:**

- Nazin discusses having certified arborists or Tree Tender specialists involved at community events. She talks about a recent tree planting at Swisshelm Park. The community was very enthusiastic and wanted to be involved. Danielle suggests calling Tree Pittsburgh or Western Pennsylvania Parks Conservancy in advance so they can send a representative to the event. Lisa also suggests contacting Forestry and that there needs to be a certified arborist or licensed professional at all tree plantings or someone who knows how to plant a tree

**Approval/Meeting Minutes-September:**

Zinna makes a motion to approve minutes with correction.

Kristen seconds the motion with correction.

Motion passes. Minutes are approved with correction.

### **Reports/Community Partners**

#### **Danielle Crumrine/Tree Pittsburgh**

- Tree planting is wrapping up in Homewood Park. New trees were planted
- Spent \$35,000 on trees through Forestry Service Grant
- Spent \$75,000 on concrete for new sidewalks and sidewalk pits for new trees
- Dozens of trees planted
- Several orchards are going in around the City
- Highland Park and Rising Main projects are going well
- Winter pruning will start in January 2026 with assistance from the Student Conservation Association
- Homewood Library contacted her regarding tree planting for Mary Savage. Danielle recommends a Magnolia tree

### **Public Comment**

In person meeting not available for public comment.

Zinna makes a motion to adjourn meeting.

Isabella seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourns at 10:09 am.