



## Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission

September 18, 2025

### Minutes

Kristen Spirl	Lisa Ceoffe	Isabella Gross	Angie Martinez
Nazin Bagherynejad	Clara Kitongo	Dr. Brian Wolyniak	James Stitt
Jim Barry	Zinna Scott	<i>Guest: Elliott Williams, Office of the Mayor</i>	<i>Guest: Michael Kelley, Forestry</i>
<i>Guest: Hana Kneiser, Forestry</i>			

#### Old Business:

Lisa opens meeting at 9:03 am.

#### New Business:

Lisa discusses the upcoming meeting with Mayor Gainey that STC is mandated by which will take place on October 16 at the Mayor's office at 11:00am. The Commission needs to come up with a list of priorities and who will present. The meeting usually runs about 90 minutes with each speaker having two to three minutes to talk.

Elliott will try to get The Proclamation pushed through before Mayor Gainey leaves office. Lisa says she has also asked about having a meeting to make our internal departments more tree aware. She will send information to Elliott and he will see what he can do.

Zinna suggests having an early meeting with our new Mayor to get ahead of the curve. How much can we take forward? Lisa says we can draft a white paper and attach the Equity Plan. Isabella comments that there is value in showing and explaining the work that the STC has done. James asks if there is anything we can have Mayor Gainey sign before he leaves office. Clara suggests creating a leave-behind document summarizing the STC's goals and making it available to the new Mayor as well.

Michael provides update on Moore Park and Crane. A stormwater management project with PWSA involving a few hundred trees. These are now flood plains again.

#### Goals and Priorities:

Intro/Accomplishments/Narrator	Lisa
Canopy Replacement/Storm Damage	Nazin & Brian
IRA Grant	Hana
RCC	Clara
Street Tree Inventory	Michael
Finances	Jim
Equity Street Tree Program	Angie
NFL Draft	Kristen

## **Timeline**

Oct. 7 Talking points to Lisa; Lisa sends to everyone to review  
Oct. 9 Changes back to Lisa  
Oct. 10 Lisa sends to Mayor's Office

Lisa discusses STC term expirations and getting an Executive Order to renew terms and fill vacancies.

Lisa provides update on NFL Draft. Forestry is still negotiating the number of trees being removed. Whatever the outcome, they are doing their best to replace canopy and there will be a positive result. Working with NFL on positive legacy projects. More to come.

## **Approval/Meeting Minutes-August:**

Lisa recommends a change to the minutes for the Re-Greening Beechwood Boulevard proposal to add Phase 6 to August minutes as follows "Phase 6 is to be determined. Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition will have to come back to Commission to review Phase 6".

Zinna makes a motion to approve minutes.

Nazin seconds the motion.

Motion passes. Minutes are approved with change.

## **Reports/Community Partners**

Clara reports that Tree Pittsburgh has planted 21 new trees in Homewood on Hamilton Avenue. They are also working with Landforce for tree installations on Nov. 15 and planning community tree plantings at Enright Park, Lawrenceville, Stanton Heights, North Oakland, Dormont, Central North Side, East Liberty and Bellevue and doing plantings in equity neighborhoods in West corridors. Zinna comments there is a need to communicate what we're doing with communities and utility companies so everyone is aware. Angie says that DOMI meets with utility organizations to share information, but there are always emergency projects. James says 98 percent of what Pittsburgh Water does is emergency work. Clara shares that there is a County-Wide Municipal Tree Commission/Committee Meeting on Sept. 20 at Oakmont Carnegie Library hosted by the Oakmont Shade Tree Commission. Information will be emailed. Lisa requests to be added to invite list for future meetings.

Isabella discusses Brushton TOD (Transit Oriented Development) Study which explores what can be built around and with green space. Angie shares that there is an opportunity for economic development in utilization of vacant space, but the project is not even off the ground yet. Michael requests that Isabella make sure that there is 30% tree canopy in the Brushton TOD plan, which is the minimum recommended to prevent catastrophic heat effect

Brian reports on the Urban and Community Forestry Conference which was held on Sept. 17. There were between 150-180 participants. Highlights included Davey's Inventory presentation, a panel discussion on TreeVitalize and conversations about climate. Conference was a success.

Angie shares information about Vision Zero Summit Oct. 17 hosted by the City of Pittsburgh and BikePGH which includes discussions on roadway safety and behavior that helps shape policy and improve quality of life. All STC members are welcome to attend.

Zinna talks about the Rain Garden weeding event going on the weekend of Sept. 19. All are welcome to attend.

James provides Pittsburgh Water updates: MS4 is finished. Restoration continues on streambanks along Glass Run Road in Hays Woods. There were 84 trees planted at Glass Run and 222 trees planted at Chartiers Creek.

Angie mentions that she is interested in seeing developments in other neighborhoods and suggests STC doing field trips occasionally.

**Public Comment**

In person meeting not available for public comment.

Lisa makes a motion to adjourn meeting

Zinna seconds the motion.

Meeting adjourns at 10:04 am.