

MEETING MINUTES

Shade Tree Committee
City Hall – 280 Grove Street, Jersey City NJ 07302

Councilmember Mira Prinz-Arey, Chair

Meeting: Jersey City Shade Tree Committee Structuring Meeting

Date / Location: 11 November 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
BA Conference Room, City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302

Attendees: **Committee Members/City Representatives**
Councilmember Mira Prinz-Arey, Chair
Theodore G. Tasoulas, Vice-Chair
Denise Bailey
Adam Cohen
David Hurtle
Matthew Trump
Marc Wesson
Edward O'Malley, Jersey City Forester
Kate Lawrence, Secretary

Prepared By: Kate Lawrence

Date Prepared: December 3, 2019

Date Approved: December 9, 2019

Overview Shade Tree Committee

- Councilmember Prinz-Arey provided an overview of the Shade Tree Committee and explained that this initial meeting was for the purpose of setting up the structure of the Committee.
- There are seven voting members appointed by the Mayor. In addition, at least two non-voting City staff members will attend the meetings. One of these will be the Jersey City Forester Edward O'Malley or his designee.
- Councilmember Prinz-Arey passed out copies of Ordinance 19-082, approved by Council on June 26, 2019. This ordinance established the Shade Tree Committee and explains its mission and duties.
- Councilmember Prinz-Arey also mentioned that an additional member was needed for the Committee.

Selection of Committee Chair

- Councilmember Prinz-Arey explained that the Shade Tree Committee needed to establish a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Committee member Theodore G. Tasoulas volunteered to serve as Chair.
- Councilmember Prinz-Arey suggested that, due to the responsibility involved, she serve as Chair and Mr. Tasoulas serve as Vice-Chair.
- The Committee members agreed to this arrangement.

Discussion of minutes/ Secretary

- Jersey City Sustainability Director Kate Lawrence will serve as Secretary to the Committee and take notes.

Setting formal dates for balance of 2019 and 2020

- Committee members agreed to Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. for the first official meeting date for the Shade Tree Committee.
- Additional dates for 2020 have not yet been established. Councilmember Prinz-Arey will review the City calendar before the next meeting
- Councilmember Prinz-Arey noted that notice for all meetings will be sent to Sean Gallagher in the City Clerk's Office.

Open Discussion

- Committee member Denise Bailey requested that the following items be added to the next agenda: revising the Tree Ordinance to make it more difficult to remove trees; and discussing the use of Open Tree Map for mapping trees.
- Committee member Bailey asked what the budget was for the Shade Tree Committee.
 - Councilmember Prinz-Arey stated that the Committee has no budget but that it can recommend actions and expenditures to the City Council and Mayor.
- City Forester Edward O'Malley stated that he would like the Committee to prioritize revisions to the Community Forestry Management Plan.
 - The Community Forestry Management Plan is set to expire at the end of 2019.
 - A current Community Forestry Management Plan is required to receive state funding for tree plantings as well as to guide municipal forestry activities.
 - Councilmember Prinz-Arey and the rest of the Committee members agreed that this should be a priority for the next meeting.
 - Forester O'Malley stated that he would work on a draft that the Committee could review at the next meeting.
- Secretary Lawrence asked if a representative from the City Law Department would be in attendance at future Shade Tree Committee meetings.
 - Councilmember Prinz-Arey stated that a legal representative would attend when needed.
- Several Committee members discussed the current disconnect between City regulations regarding trees and the enforcement of those policies.
- Secretary Lawrence stated that she would make a page for the Shade Tree Committee on the City website and include links to relevant documents.

NEXT MEETING

The first official meeting of the Jersey City Shade Tree Committee will take place on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

