

**Town of University Park: Committee on
Trees, Parks, and Environment
Minutes for the 4/12/2023 Meeting**

***Hyattsville Branch of the PGCMLS, 6530 Adelphi Rd, Conference
Room 1***

ZOOM Option:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87572898241?pwd=SkUvaUZBT1V3eFE3VkZLK1hDTms3dz09>

Members Present/Absent Beth Alvarez, Roy Alvarez, Chris Aubry (Chair), Karin Burghardt, Eric Erickson, Matt Jasinski, Laurie Morrissey (Council Liaison), ~~Karen Sondak~~, ~~Joe Thompson~~, ~~Tim Young~~

CONVENED: 6:31 ADJOURNED: 7:45
ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING

Stormwater retention pond at Woodberry/College Heights:

- Karin updated the group about the status of the rainwater catchment and shared her updated planting plan. She recommends the use of topsoil and bioretention mix in certain places.
- Discussed possible planting dates: May 13 and/or May 20, depending on plant availability. May need to defer planting for certain plants until the fall so they'll have a better chance of establishing.
- DPW Director Beall has contacted two growers to request ETA of delivery of desired plants.

Update on FY2024 budget items relevant to TPE and sustainability overall:

- As of April 12, Mayor Biermann advocated for proposed budget line item G33 titled "Park Lights." Many Committee members and residents are opposed to the lights, as they may cause significant ecological damage to Town park areas. Council Liaison Morrissey urged committee members to contact their Councilmembers to voice their opposition to this proposal.
- A member noted that this recommendation was made without consideration in the context of the park plan.

Efforts to best Publicize/Enforce UP's Tree Ordinance:

- Discussed the need for additional efforts to publicize the ordinance. Listserv and Tremendous posts were among the recommendations. Also discussed bundling

communications about tree ordinance with information about the battery powered lawn equipment rebate program.

- The consensus was to not cancel the May 10 TPE meeting. One idea was to meet at the bioretention area @Woodberry/College Heights.

Ivy League:

- Tentatively planned for June 10 with a focus on removing knotweed (although this effort may be easier in the fall and winter).
- Karin reported that she has been removing Japanese knotweed in area where it will spread and encroach on wildflowers.
- The playground site was also discussed because small knotwood plants are encroaching on woodland phlox.

Other discussion points:

- Karin reported that she spoke with Mary Sue Twohy about grant program that provides plants to municipalities. The Sustainability Committee may take advantage of this grant and may reach out to TPE for assistance. One idea posited is to plant them in Town rights of way.