

Takoma Park Committee on the Environment  
November 14, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Committee members:

Jonathan Wrotny

Kea Woodruff

Catherine Tunis

Al Solomon, prospective member

David Hauck, Montgomery County Sierra Club

Todd Bolton, new City Arborist

October Minutes were approved.

Catherine reported that the Committee member interviews are scheduled w Council on November 20<sup>th</sup> for Tim Male and Al Solomon on December 4<sup>th</sup> and that the Committee session with Council is also scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>.

In a discussion with Todd Bolton, he said he sees the forest more than individual trees. COE noted we would like to maintain large trees. Todd said he would like to invest in tree education—sell people on the need for tree maintenance. He said public outreach should emphasize that anyone doing tree work must be licensed and citizens should call Maryland Department of Natural Resources to check on any tree business' status. Todd said he is not afraid of enforcing and has issued five stop work orders so far. He thinks public education is the best method for protecting large trees. Catherine noted that the Committee would be happy to help with that. On the topic of a possible brochure for realtors, Todd said he wants a handout available on the website made available at settlement. There was a suggestion to discuss the “salability” of a brochure for realtors—see if they would see it as an asset or a hindrance for selling houses. David suggested creating an environmental “welcome wagon” for new residents.

There was a discussion on planning for Green building workshop for citizens and contractors. Catherine will send a message to all members to see who wants to participate, noting that we provide expertise, can recommend content, speakers, topics.

There was a brief discussion about updating the Green Building Guidelines and there was a suggestion that they be made mandatory—we deferred on that question.