

Discussion and Action  
State of Georgia  
Fulton County  
City of Hapeville

Discussion and Action 2019.02\_3

**‘Discussion and Review for City Planner and Community Services - Community Forest Management Plan and Tree Ordinances’**

A DISCUSSION REGARDING TREES WITHIN THE CITY OF HAPEVILLE, ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS NATURAL ASSETS; AND

A REVIEW OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS AT ESTABLISHING A CITYWIDE COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND

A REQUEST THAT STAFF WORK WITH THE GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION TO ATTAIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN UPDATING OUR TREE ORDINANCE TO CURRENT BEST STANDARDS LANGUAGE IN ADDITION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN; AND

A REQUEST THAT STAFF COLLABORATE AND REPORT BACK TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL, AND POTENTIAL SYNERGIES BETWEEN TREES ATLANTA AND THE CITY OF HAPEVILLE;

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the City of Hapeville shall be preserved, enhanced, and guarded by the discussion and potential action of the aforementioned; and

BE IT, AND IS HEREBY REQUESTED that the Mayor and Council discuss the beneficial tenants of the aforementioned (and below summarized):

- Hapeville received a grant from the Urban and Community Forest Grant program of the Georgia Forestry Commission in 2006, per this record. Per staff’s recollection, was this beneficial and what were the results? This was under the city administration of Mike Rast, if he is able to provide insight.
- The Georgia Urban Forestry Council (now Trees Georgia), part of the Georgia Forestry Commission, offers grants and technical assistance for the creation of a Community Forrest Management Plan and updates to tree ordinances.
- Staff should work to see what partnerships can be made with Trees Atlanta with the NeighborWoods program, “a collaborative effort to replenish and sustain the tree canopy, while also educating the community on tree care and tree management”. NeighborWoods provides up to three free trees per front yard for the current participating municipalities (Atlanta and Sandy Springs).
- Mayor and Council should be updated on the ‘tree bank’, how much monies are currently in this account, and a plan for how to use these funds going forward.
- Per the Georgia Forestry Commission, municipalities should look into creating a ‘Tree Board’ or a ‘Tree Advisory Group’ constituted of a mix of interested citizens and staff that want to push for progressive forestry management policies in an urban environment.
- Review if the city can have a tree planting ceremony in addition to the passing of the annual Arbor Day Resolution on Arbor Day 2019 (April 26, 2019).