

City of Starkville Tree Advisory Board (STAB)

Minutes

May 6, 2015

Location: Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Starkville, MS

Attendance:

Steve Grado, MSU Dept. of Forestry
Ron Hartley, Dale Partners
Jim DeFoe, Ergon Properties, Inc.
Kris Godwin, Wildlife Services, USDA APHIS
Christina Lucas, Tom Smith Land & Homes
Kass Green, Tom Smith Land & Homes
Jason Pepper, Pepper-Wooten & Assoc.
Christian Preus, CPLA – Starkville Apts.
Leslie Moma, MSU Landscape Architecture
Buddy Sanders, City Hall
Daniel Havelin, City of Starkville
Bob Brzuszek, MSU, Landscape Architecture
Jason Gordon, MSU Dept. of Forestry
Richard Harkess, MSU, Horticulture
Jamey Bachman, Volunteer Starkville
Brian Templeton, MSU, Landscape Architecture
Terry Kemp, Starkville Electric Department

Meeting opened at 11:02 AM by Dr. Jason Gordon, subbing for Jonathan Howell as Chair

Jamey Bachman introduced herself as a new STAB committee member.

1st waiver request: LW-15-02

Introduced by Daniel Havelin

Mercantile Street parking islands.

Six trees on left side parking, major transmission lines an impediment.

Issue is full canopied tree.

Harkess made a motion to have small trees to replace canopy tree.

Grado amended for native species preference.

Gordon seconded it.

Unanimous vote in favor of motion for conditional waiver.

2nd waiver request: LW-15-03

Introduced by Daniel Havelin

Discussed by Christian Preus, wanted to take shrubs from primary fence area and use them in the front instead.

Fencing will be there with canopy trees.

At or above the number of plant units required in front; transferred shrubs.
They are meeting the tree canopy requirement.
Relocation of shrubs.
Templeton motions to accept waiver.
Grado seconds.
Unanimous vote in favor of motion for waiver.

3rd waiver request: LW-15-04

Introduced by Daniel Havelin

Jason Pepper representing.

Condominium development on S. Montgomery Street at current site of water tower. Owner wants 112 parking spaces, but there are actually 108 to 111 in reality. Requested removal of required canopy trees to comply with ADA.

Templeton asks if they can lose 3 parking spaces in lieu of trees and be ADA compliant; city ordinances only require 38 parking spaces total.

Brzuszek: Losing the trees for the ADA space is a good approach, but the plan is too preliminary right now.

Pepper: 12 parking layouts so far.

Conversation ensues on parking spaces, ADA, trees, and green space.

Brzuszek: There is a driving circulation issue no matter what happens to the trees.

Harkess: What would green space turn into?

Pepper: If trees cannot be removed, green space will be paved over because there is too little parking space.

Godwin: water tower; abandoned land.

Harkess motions to grant waiver if they meet overall greening requirement.

Templeton amended the motion to revise the conditions of the waiver; the spatial requirement is waived on the condition the vegetation and canopy requirements are met as if the spatial requirement had not been waived. (See comments for notes on conditions.)

Final vote: 5-1

Additional items included SED landscaping for Arbor Day, Leslie Moma presented her master's research project.