




City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20715

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch 
City Manager

SUBJECT: Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee

DATE: September 6, 2007

In a recent communication, the Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee asked Council to “review current needs and priorities, and clarifying the purpose of the Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee”. The June 4, 2007 letter from the Committee is attached, along with the Resolution and Ordinance establishing the Committee. The timing of Council’s review of this matter is serendipitous with the notion of an environmental committee on the Worksession Agenda.

Perhaps the Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee could be folded into a new environmental committee. Other options exist, of course, such as further refining the scope of the Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee. Staff can play a greater or lesser role depending on how Council calibrates the Committee role.

DJD/asf

Attachments

June 4, 2007

Bowie City Council
2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, MD 20715

Dear Mayor Robinson and City Council,

We are writing to request guidance regarding the responsibilities of the Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee (B&TPC). Current activities differ from the purpose and duties of the Committee as defined in the City Code.

In 1997, City Council amended previous ordinances (Amendment No. 1, 0-2-97, Chapter 21C) to combine two existing committees into the B&TPC. In short, the purpose of the Committee (Section 21C-1) is to provide for the beautification of trees, forests, and natural vegetation within the City through various methods, which shall include but are not limited to landscaping, preservation/conservation, and/or reforestation efforts.

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee include annually submitting a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, and removal of trees and shrubs in indicated areas. More specifically, the Committee is charged with such tasks as recommending appropriate plantings along travel routes, offering advice regarding the planting of trees in public areas, and recommending the removal of trees that may cause injury or damage.

Over time, Committee activities have changed, and the City has created new staff positions with responsibilities in some of the same areas. Currently, this Committee supports the following annual activities:

- Pruning Workshop—education to increase basic pruning skills to maintain healthy trees and shrubs;
- Arbor Day Program—celebration including the planting of memorial trees for deceased residents of Bowie; and
- City of Bowie Beautification Awards—recognition of residents and businesses for creating and maintaining various categories of landscaping/gardening/wildlife habitat.

Current activities reflect the Committee's function [Section 21C-5 (C)], to provide a channel of communication between residents and business leaders regarding concerns for the beautification of the community.

We appreciate your reviewing the City Code, reviewing current needs and priorities, and clarifying the purpose and duties of the B&TPC. As we're in the process of planning activities in the coming months, your prompt response would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Sykes
Chairman, Beautification & Tree Preservation Committee

Cc: David J. Deutsch, City Manager
Lawrence Pierce, Director, Community Services

R E S O L U T I O NOF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND
ESTABLISHING A BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the City Council of Bowie, Maryland recognizes the vital and important role of city beautification in the City of Bowie; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it in the public interest to set and achieve appropriate goals and objectives for the Beautification of the City and it's environs; and

WHEREAS: the Council requires sound advice and collective wisdom of its citizen experts in planning and development of each Beautification project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Bowie, Maryland that a Beautification Committee be established on the following basis:

Section 1. Purposes and Functions

a. To set new goals and objectives for the beautification of the City of Bowie and its vicinity.

b. To make recommendations concerning:

(1) The aesthetics of entrance routes into the City.

(2) Small publicly owned areas along various travelled routes, including landscaping planting of appropriate types of shrubbery or other improvements the Committee may recommend from time to time.

c. To provide a channel of communication between the residents and business leaders of the "Greater Bowie Area" and the Bowie City Council regarding concerns for the beautification of the Community.

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- d. To offer advice to the City Council in matters affecting the beautification of the City.
- e. To review and make recommendations concerning matters assigned to the Committee by action of the City Council.

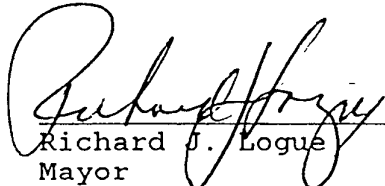
Section 2. Membership

The Committee shall be composed of five (5) registered voters in the City, who shall include a Chairman, four other citizen-members and non-voting ex-officio members (principal and alternate) of the City Council, as shall be appointed by the City Council. The Council shall appoint the Chairman for a one-year renewable term with a maximum of two terms.

Section 3: Rules and Regulations

The Committee shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations for City Committees as adopted, and amended from time to time, by the City Council.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a Regular meeting on September 18, 1989.


Richard J. Logue
Mayor

Attest:


Pamela A. Fleming
City Clerk

KLP/lbg (8/28/89)

ORDINANCE
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND
CONSOLIDATING THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE AND
THE TREE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO BE KNOWN AS THE
BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Bowie, pursuant to Ordinance O-3-92 added Chapter 21C to establish the Tree Preservation and Protection Committee to promote and enhance the ecological, economic and amenity value and benefit of trees and natural vegetation; and

WHEREAS, the City established, pursuant to Resolution R-92-89, the "Beautification Committee" in recognition of the important role of City beautification in the City of Bowie; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it in the public interest to consolidate the responsibilities of the Tree Preservation and Protection Committee and the Beautification Committee in recognition of the interrelationships of the work of the two committees and the benefits to be achieved by a synergism of that work; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Bowie deems it mutually beneficial to the interest of tree preservation and beautification to combine the energies of the two committees into a committee entitled the "Beautification and Tree Preservation Committee".

CAPITALS : INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW
[Brackets] : Indicate matter deleted from law
Asterisks *** : Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance.
UNDERLINED CAPITALS : Language added to amendment.

Section 1. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland that Chapter 21C, "Tree Preservation and Protection", is hereby, repealed and reenacted with amendments to read as follows:

CHAPTER 21C

[TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION}]

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE PRESERVATION

Section 21C-1. Purpose.

The Council recognizes the ecological, economic and amenity value and benefit of trees, forests, and natural vegetation in the City. The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY THROUGH THE planting, preservation and protection of trees, forests, and natural vegetation within the corporate limits of the City through various methods which shall include but are not limited to LANDSCAPING, preservation/conservation, [and] OR reforestation efforts.

Section 21C-2. Definitions.

* * *

Section 21C-3. Creation and establishment of a City BEAUTIFICATION AND Tree Preservation Committee.

There is hereby created and established a BEAUTIFICATION AND Tree Preservation Committee for the City of Bowie which shall consist of [five] TWELVE members who are registered voters in the City of Bowie who shall be appointed by the City Council. THE

COMMITTEE MAY DIVIDE ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND ESTABLISH SUCH SUBCOMMITTEES AS IT MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUES OF BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE PRESERVATION.

Section 21C-4. Duties and responsibilities.

(a) It shall be the responsibility of the [City Tree] BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE Preservation Committee to study, investigate, propose and/or revise annually a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planing, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along City streets and in other City owned areas or areas maintained by the City, INCLUDING PLANS FOR ADDITIONAL BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY.

(b) The written plan shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY.

[(1)] (2) A statement of the City's annual progress in meeting the City's commitment to its [releaf] RE-LEAF program.

[(2)] (3) Identification of important and critical areas in which trees are to be saved.

[(3)] (4) A statement of goals for a continuous net increase of forest cover within the City.

[(4)] (5) Identification of specimen trees and areas for reforestation and possible acquisition by the City for perpetual conservation within the City.

[(5)] (6) Identification of priority sites for mitigation activities resulting from or caused by development or construction activity.

[(6)] (7) Recommendations for future opportunities to expand tree growth in City parks and to develop street tree planing concepts within the City.

[(7)] (8) Recommendations as to criteria to be used by the City staff with regard to tree preservation during the process of reviewing development projects.

* * *

Section 21C-5. PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS FOR BEAUTIFICATION.

THE BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE SHALL SET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY OF BOWIE AND ITS VICINITY WHICH SHALL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING:

- (A) THE AESTHETICS OF ENTRANCE ROUTES TO THE CITY.
- (B) SMALL PUBLICLY OWNED AREAS ALONG VARIOUS TRAVEL ROUTES, INCLUDING LANDSCAPING, PLANTING OF APPROPRIATE TYPES OF SHRUBBERY AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS THE COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND FROM TIME TO TIME.

(C) TO PROVIDE A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE "GREATER BOWIE AREA" AND THE BOWIE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING CONCERNS FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE COMMUNITY.

(D) TO OFFER ADVICE TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN MATTERS AFFECTING THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CITY AND THE PLANTING OF TREES IN PUBLIC AREAS.

(E) TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MATTERS ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE BY ACTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Section 21C-[5] 6. Rules of procedure.

The [City Tree] BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE Preservation Committee shall be governed by the provisions of R-65-86, as amended, from time to time, establishing the rules and regulations of City committees. The Committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings and all findings and recommendations shall be reduced to writing and entered as a matter of public record in the office of the City Clerk. In matters concerning the procedure for meetings not covered by R-65-86 or this Chapter, the Committee may establish its own rules subject to approval by the City Council, and by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Section 21C-[6] 7. Street tree planting guidelines.

* * *

Section 21C-[7] 8. Park tree guidelines.

The [City Tree] BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE Preservation Committee may recommend in writing to the City Council the planting,

replanting and enhancement of existing park tree designs for all public and private parks within the City. The scope of such recommendations may include the enhancement of common spaces within residential developments that are dedicated to and maintained by homeowners' associations. Specific enhancement plans should strive to create and/or recapture treed, park-like settings.

Section 21C-[8] 9. Public tree care.

The [City Tree] BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE Preservation Committee may recommend in writing to the City Manager, removal of any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electrical power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest.

Section 21C-[9] 10. Rights of adjacent property owners.

This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with Section 21C-[6] 7 of this Chapter.

Section 2. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED, that this Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its enactment by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland provided that a fair summary of this Ordinance is published at least once prior to the date of passage and at least once within ten (10) days

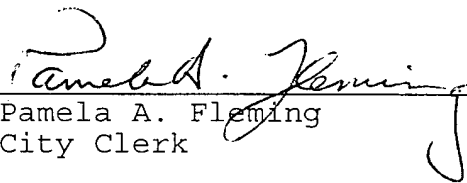
after the date of passage in a newspaper having general circulation in the City.

INTRODUCED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a regular meeting on the 18 day of February 1997.

PASSED by the Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland at a regular meeting on the 3 day of March 1997.

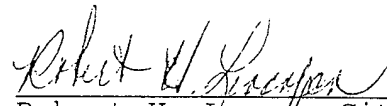
ATTEST:

THE CITY OF BOWIE, MARYLAND


Pamela A. Fleming
City Clerk

By: 
Gary G. Allen, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUFFICIENCY:


Robert H. Levan, City Attorney

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