

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING



*Awet Eyasu–Chair
Laura Hopkins – Vice Chair
Life Griffith- Resident Member
Lisa Williams – Resident Member
Warren Hadlock – Resident Member*

AGENDA

**Wednesday, August 19, 2020
6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. INTRODUCTION OF MEETING’S PURPOSE

- 1) Discussion of plantings in open field and pollinator garden in Friendship Forest
- 2) Begin creation of a Clarkston Sustainability and Resource Stewardship Plan
- 3) Discuss and begin writing mission, vision, and values for the Environmental and Transportation committee
- 4) Recommend that all park signage be written and coordinated by a park management professional, naturalist interpreter or someone with content knowledge in environmental studies, natural sciences such as watersheds, ecology, or zoology as well as park management
- 5) Recommend a position of a Director of Parks and Recreation or Park Ranger
- 6) Discuss Clarkston City Code, Chapter 5, Article 5: Tree Protection
- 7) Recommend city council mandate Bird Friendly Building Design Standard per the U.S. Green Building Council on all new buildings
- 8) Enforce lighting regulations for parks in municipal code
- 9) Update to ordinance where land disturbance and stream buffers are concerned. We should be at least as protective as Dekalb County, which means we would increase our undisturbed buffers from 50 ft to 75 ft.
- 10) Discussion: House in 40 Oaks.
- 11) Discussion: Enviro/Trans budget, how it’s being used and what we project for next year.
- 12) Discussion: Environmental Fund
- 13) Discussion: potential electric car charging stations and installation of solar panels on the city hall.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

E. Comments

Stephen Quinn, City Attorney
Awet Eyasu, Chair
Laura Hopkins, Vice-Chair

F. ADJOURNMENT:

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2020 6:00PM

ZOOM MEETING - CONTACT ACCESS INFORMATION PAGE

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 871 5482 1337

Passcode: 851508

One tap mobile

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Both are 20mph zones, but only



one of them is designed like it.

Committee Members

Awet Eyasu (Chair)

Laura Hopkins

Life Griffith

Lisa Williams

Warren Hadlock

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

City of Clarkson, Georgia

MEETING DATE

8/19/2020

6:00 PM

To Join the Zoom Meeting, click link or copy and paste into your browser
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87154821337?pwd=ZTFjalFES1Jnb05oU2htS1ZFeWxoZz09>

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See [ZOOM MEETING CONTACT ACCESS INFORMATION PAGE](#) for all numbers

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Environmental and Transportation Committee 8/17/2020
Last Modified 8/13/2020



2. Begin creation of a Clarkston Sustainability and Resource Stewardship Plan

Mock up/Starter Seeds

Sustainability and Resource Stewardship Plan

1. City Land Stewardship: Park Management Plan

- a. Heritage Interpretation Professional for all park signage.
- b. Director of Parks/Park Ranger:
 - i. Inventory Resources within Park Areas:
 - 1. Forty Oaks
 - 2. Friendship Forest
 - 3. Milam Park
 - 4. Graveyard on Norman
 - 5. Urban Pocket Parks: Brocket Triangle, Refuge Coffee, Montreal @ Ponce
 - ii. Create Resource Maintenance Plan
 - iii. Promote park usage among residents through design
 - 1. Park Resource Planning – Trail and Resource Layout
 - 2. Plan features including possible future sculpture garden, exercise trail
 - 3. Resource Interpretation – City Web site, Park App, Community Outreach for Parks
 - iv. Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2. Flora and Fauna Stewardship

- a. Enforce Tree Ordinance
 - i. Discuss tree bank option, Arborist
- b. Discuss future revisions to tree ordinance
- c. Mandate Bird Friendly Building Design Standard per the U.S. Green Building Council on all new buildings
<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/leed-projects-save-energy-saving-birds>
- d. Enforce municipal code on lighting in parks

3. Promote pedestrian and cycle transportation over motor vehicles

- a. Maximize shade
- b. Visible Crosswalks
- c. Pedestrian and cycle paths protected from vehicular traffic
- d. Slow vehicular traffic through design
Example: Plant large shrubs in Islands on Norman to reduce vision or road beyond island.
- e. Reduce sound pollution
 - i. Review possibility of establishing Clarkston as a quiet zone
 - ii. Possible plant sound barriers near busy roads and train
<https://dgmr.nl/app/uploads/files/InterNoise2016%200000608%20%20PPT%20Bamboo%20plans%20as%20a%20noise%20barrier.pdf>
 - iii. Discuss communication with residents for actions regarding racing on streets

4. Regenerative Land Management Plan

- a. Minimize use of herbicides
 - i. Design with native plants intended to grow free
 - ii. Remove predatory invasive species from public property by physical removal: ivy, kudzu, wisteria
 - iii. Stop planting of high maintenance non-native groundcovers: Bermuda grass.
- b. Minimize use of artificial fertilizers
 - i. Green ground covers
 - ii. Natural compost
- c. Minimize use of fungicides and pesticides

5. Earth Stewardship – Climate Change and Carbon Footprint

- a. Carbon sequestration
 - i. Maintain mature hardwood canopies
- b. Carbon Use Reduction
 - i. Minimize use of concrete
Example: Green swales instead of concrete gutters and curbs

6. Budget Stewardship - Minimize maintenance labor (mowing, fertilizing, weeding)

- a. Ex: miniature clover instead of grass

7. Urban Watershed Stewardship

- a. Minimize impermeable surfaces
 - i. Ex: Use of permeable tiles instead of asphalt for parking
e.g. <https://www.truegridpaver.com>
 - ii. Allow Wheel track driveways
 - iii. Green swales instead of gutters
- b. Rainwater harvesting and re-use
- c. Replace storm water run-off systems with filter-in-place systems
 - i. CDS (Continuous Deflective Separation) Units
 - ii. Detention basins
 - iii. Permeable pavement and pavers
- d. Storm water planters and catchment systems

3. Discuss and begin writing mission, vision, and values for the Environmental and Transportation committee

Sample Mission/Vision Statements

Mission: Loving how you feel when you're outside
Nourishing the spirit from the outside
Unleashing the Beauty of Clarkston
Clarkston Smiles
Clarkston: The place to Be
Captivating Clarkston
You're Going to Want to Be Outside
Clarkston: Where no one wants to be inside
Treasure Our Home

Vision:

Draw out the beauty, nature, and charm of Clarkston, make it accessible for all, and preserve it forever
To be mindful stewards of our natural resources including the land, water, air, trees, fauna, and vibrations of sight and sound and feel.
To ensure that our parks are utilized by making them known, accessible, friendly, beautiful, functional, and inspiring
Preservation of natural tree shade
Elimination of all forms of pollution including litter, air pollution, sound pollution, light pollution, and water pollution.
Promotion of pedestrian friendly lifestyles

Values:

Community	Stewardship
Shade	Pedestrians – voluntary or not
Native flora and fauna	Education
Professionalism in resource management	Gifts for the Future Generations
Equal Opportunity for enjoyment	

4. Recommend that all park signage be written and coordinated by a park management professional, naturalist interpreter or someone with content knowledge in environmental studies, natural sciences such as watersheds, ecology, or zoology as well as park management

<https://www.nps.gov/idp/interp/101/FoundationsCurriculum.pdf>

“There are essentially two ways to deliver interpretation: personal services and media (non-personal) services. Personal services provide opportunities for visitors to interact with an interpreter in person. They include such things as informal contacts, talks, guided walks and demonstrations. However, personal services reach only as much as 22% of the visitors. In contrast over 62% of visitors receive interpretation through media services such as brochures, newspapers, audio tours and exhibit labels. Regardless of the type of interpretative service being provided, the definition of interpretation remains the same for both (Visitor Use and Evaluation of Interpretive Media, 2003).

So what is interpretation? It is a bridge between the meanings of the resources and interests of the visitors. It connects the tangible artifacts, collections or natural resources of a site to the intangible concepts they can represent.”

Park Signage Resources: <https://panniergraphics.com/>

5. Recommend a position of a Director of Parks and Recreation or Park Ranger

What we don't have:

1. City Sustainability Master Plan
2. Director of Parks and Rec
3. Parks and Recreation Master Plan
4. Park Maintenance Master Plan
5. Park Ranger
6. City Arborist
7. Mission, Vision, Values for Environmental and Transportation Committee
8. Any programs for nature education or stewardship for Clarkston's young (of any age).

What a Park Director can provide

1. Guidance on effective natural resource management
2. Environmental education and programming
3. A park management plan
4. Management of media for optimal visitor appreciation
- 5.

6. Discuss Clarkston City Code, Chapter 5, Article 5: Tree Protection

Sec. 5-303. - Appointment and qualifications of a city tree consultant.

- (a) The city shall appoint a consultant on trees who shall be a person skilled and trained in the arts and sciences of municipal arboricultural, ornamental or landscape horticulture, urban forestry or other related field.
- (b) The city tree consultant shall be called upon to advise the city regarding the specifications and standards of practice governing the planting, maintenance, removal, fertilization, pruning and bracing of trees in public areas. The city tree consultant shall also assist staff with the review of permit requests and site development plans submitted to the city and make recommendations concerning them to the city. The city tree consultant shall conduct follow-up and final inspections as appropriate to insure compliance with this article.
- (c) The city tree consultant shall identify and maintain a record of specimen trees and tree stands based on the following criteria:
 - (1) A stand with purity of species composition or of a rare or unusual nature;
 - (2) A tree or stand of historic significance;
 - (3) A tree or stand with exception aesthetic quality.

(Ord. No. 261, § 2, 8-6-02; ; [Ord. No. 376, § 2, 12-3-13](#).)

Sec. 5-306. - Permits.

- (a) No person, firm, organization, public agency or society shall directly or indirectly destroy or remove any trees situated on property described in section 5-305 of this article without obtaining a permit as provided herein, except for property and activities exempted in section 5-305(b).
- (b) Permits shall be obtained by making application to the city clerk, and the application shall be referred to the city tree consultant. Permit fees shall be as established from time to time by the city council. The application, when made in conjunction with a building permit or a development permits shall also include a landscaping plan, a plan for protection of trees during construction, and any other documentation required for all areas of the parcel within a protected zone. The applicant may be required to submit a tree replacement plan if, at the discretion of the city tree consultant, replacement is deemed reasonable and suitable. Methods and standards for tree replacement and protection shall be established in administrative guidelines to this article, such guidelines to be effective upon approval by the city council.
- (c) All landscape plans and related documentation shall be reviewed by the city tree consultant and either approved, returned for revision, or denied. If denied, the reasons shall be annotated on the landscape plan or otherwise stated in writing.
- (d) Issuance of a building or development permit shall constitute an approval of the required landscape plan and conformance to the provisions of these regulations. Any permit shall be void if its terms are violated.
- (e) Any person aggrieved or affected by any decision of the city tree consultant relating to the application of this article may appeal to the city council for relief or reconsideration. Such appeal must be filed within ten (10) days of the date of the decision being appealed. Notice of such appeal shall be given to the city tree consultant prior to any consideration of the appeal by the city council. Appeals shall be granted only for errors of interpretation or where unique natural features of the site are such that application of these regulations would create an undue hardship for the property owner, and in other instances where an undue hardship is created for the property owner.

(Ord. No. 261, § 2, 8-6-02)

[https://library.municode.com/ga/clarkston/codes/code_of_ordinances-Tree Protection](https://library.municode.com/ga/clarkston/codes/code_of_ordinances-Tree%20Protection)

7. Recommend city council mandate Bird Friendly Building Design Standard per the U.S. Green Building Council on all new buildings

<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/leed-projects-save-energy-saving-birds>

8. Enforce lighting regulations for parks in municipal code

Lighting is being left on all night in the 40 Oaks Nature Preserve which is disruptive to the lives of both the nocturnal and diurnal wildlife as well as neighbors. **Light is an environmental Endocrine Disruptor and causes disruption to circadian rhythms to animals as well as humans.**

“There is increasing evidence for a role of LAN [Light at Night] in human health, including disruption of circadian regulation and melatonin signaling, metabolic dysregulation, cancer risk, and disruption of other hormonally-driven systems. These effects are not limited to humans; domesticated animals as well as wildlife are also exposed to LAN, and at risk for disrupted circadian rhythms.”

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5839924/#:~:text=Light%20can%20directly%20alter%20endocrine,consequences%20of%20LAN%20exposure%20below.>

Sec. 13-4. - Outdoor lighting.

(a) In order to provide for the peace, tranquility and general convenience of the citizens of Clarkston, all lighted outdoor events or activities where the lighted area exceeds two thousand (2,000) square feet must cease no later than 8:30 p.m., local time, and all such lighting shall be extinguished at that time. It shall be the affirmative duty of the owner or lessee of such property to comply with the provisions of this section. To violate the provisions of this section shall be deemed unlawful conduct subject to the penalties and punishment provided in [section 1-7](#) of this Code.

(b) This section shall not apply to the tennis courts in Milan **Park**, a city owned and operated facility, nor shall it apply to security lighting, public or private, which is left on from sundown to sunup.

https://lib*rary.municode.com/ga/clarkston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH13PARE_S13-4OULI

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- Cover Picture from <https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2019/1/8/new-20-mph-street>

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Passcode: 211403

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