

## Motion

June 9, 2010

I move that:

- 1) The Aurora Highlands Civic Association assess, on an annual basis, the neighborhood tree canopy on a block-by-block basis. The blocks will then be ranked on the potential for planting canopy trees with the highest priority being given to blocks with the greatest potential to plant canopy trees.
- 2) In January of each calendar year, starting in January 2011 and continuing for subsequent years through 2020, the secretary of the AHCA will: send a letter substantially similar to the attached letter (Restore Tree Canopy Letter) to each address on the block of highest priority (or such other address most likely to reach a property owner or property manager who can authorize and allocate money for tree planting); collect responses, make follow-up contact, and make a good faith effort to get a response to the Restore Tree Canopy Letter; and report responses to the AHCA executive committee and membership.
- 3) Authorize the expenditure of money as a cost sharing as described in the attached letter, but specifically limited as follows:
  - AHCA will pay 50% of the cost of the purchase of a canopy tree up to a limit of \$150.00 per tree based on the presentation of a valid receipt documenting the cost of the purchased tree to the association treasurer;
  - AHCA will make every effort to secure volunteer labor to assist in the planting of the canopy trees but will not pay costs associated with tree planting;
  - AHCA will make payment to the tree purchaser to defray the cost of the tree that the tree purchaser chooses to purchase, plant, and maintain. AHCA payment and/or support volunteer labor do not imply any warranty, expression of responsibility, or incursion or liability;
  - Total AHCA expenditure as a result of this motion shall not exceed 10% of the cash on hand as reported by the treasurer on the first day of each calendar year.
- 4) Exception to the priority list described in (1) above may be made if a block chooses to “self identify” as a priority by having residents commit in writing to the purchase and planting of more canopy trees than would otherwise be planted on the block identified as the highest priority. Further exception may be made if the Association chooses to allocate more funds, donations are received, or more money is available than required to reimburse 50% of the cost of all the canopy trees intended for the highest priority block by following the process outlined above for the second highest priority block.
- 5) The intent of this motion is to increase the canopy coverage of the properties (owner occupied, rental, single-family, multifamily, or commercial) within the civic association boundary by increasing the number of canopy trees planted over the number that might otherwise be planted. Trees that are ineligible for the cost sharing described in this motion are: those that do not meet the definition of a canopy tree (as determined by a nationally recognized reference source, a trained arborist, or a trained tree steward within our neighborhood designated by the Civic Association Executive Committee); those that have a poor chance of survival (as determined by the afore mentioned sources) due to factors that may include property owner choice of location, species, or other factors; and trees that are required to be planted and would otherwise be planted absent this motion (i.e. those required as part of a site plan or other construction, permitting, or zoning action).

Respectively Submitted

---

Sample Letter  
Restore Tree Canopy

DATE

Dear Neighbor,

In an ongoing effort to improve and preserve our neighborhood, the members of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association have committed both money and time to a most worthy cause - the restoration of our neighborhood tree canopy.

The benefits of a mature and full tree canopy are many:

- properties with shading trees sell more quickly and for higher prices;
- tree shade reduces the effect of the sun's heat thus lowering utility bills, extending the life of AC equipment, lengthening the life of roof shingles, driveway and road pavement, and provides a cooler, more inviting, outdoor environment that encourages and supports a friendlier, healthier, more social lifestyle;
- trees clean the air, fix carbon, and emit oxygen; and
- studies have shown that tree lined and shaded streets lead to lower automobile speeds.