

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

February 18, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension
Rick Ayers, Providence District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

VACANT POSITION: Springfield District
Mason District
Fairfax County Park Authority

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, UFMD
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD
Samantha Wangsgard, Urban Forester II, UFMD

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Welcome of New Tree Commissioners

Chairman Vickers welcomed two new Tree Commissioners, Jessica Bowser and Karen Campblin, who will be representing the Lee and Sully Districts, respectively.

Presentation

“Healthy Forests”

Joe Marx, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria

Minutes

The January minutes were reviewed and approved by the commission members.

SpringFest

Commissioner Kadet reminded the Tree Commission that SpringFest will be on April 30th and she needs volunteers from the Tree Commissioners. She is looking for ideas for the Tree Commission display as well as prizes for participants.

Friends of Trees Awards

Chairman Vickers urged tree commissioners to think ahead of the coming “Friends of Trees” awards. The deadline for nominations will be March 17th and they will be reviewed at the March Tree Commission meeting.

UFMD Report

Keith Cline reported that Butch Loughrey's former position with the Fairfax County Park Authority will be converted to an Urban Forester II, and will be posted this Saturday (February 20). The individual that fills this position may be a good candidate to fill the FCPA Tree Commission vacancy.

Keith Cline also introduced Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III to discuss the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund and asked for feedback from the Tree Commission. Following discussion amongst the Tree Commission, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. Cline, the Tree Commission asked to have more time to review the materials and discuss the matter further at the March Tree Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Reports

- Chairman Vickers (Dranesville) discussed the Tree Forum to be held at the Great Falls Grange on March 8th in cooperation with organizations including the Great Falls Citizens Association. He also reported that the Tree Preservation and Planting Awards were held, and while attendance was low, the majority of the awards winners were in attendance.
- Commissioner Quigley (Mt. Vernon District) Commissioner Quigley emphasized the importance of early involvement from the Tree Commission regarding issues such as treescapes and pocket parks during the zoning process especially in commercial business centers and high density areas. She also discussed the planned housing development on Fort Belvoir adjacent to Huntley Meadows. Commissioner Quigley expressed gratitude for the Urban Forest Management Divisions involvement with an issue pertaining to the removal of trees in Mount Vernon. She also expressed the need for partners in the development of the Strategic Plan, including the Fairfax County Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB). Commissioner Quigley also reminded Tree Commissioners of the ongoing legislative issues in Richmond pertaining to proffers and the need for the Tree Commission to pay attention to these issues.
- Commissioner Kadet (Braddock District) reported that she attended "Stand Up for Trees" event put on by Casey Trees in Washington, DC and recommended Tree Commissioners look into attending future Casey Trees events.
- Commissioner Allen (VA Cooperative Extension) reminded Tree Commission about forum scheduled at the Great Falls Grange on March 8 which will focus on in-fill development issues and which she is working on preparing for with Chairman Vickers.
- Vice Chair McGlone (VA Dept. of Forestry) reported that the next Northern Virginia Roundtable will be held next Thursday (February 25) at Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. Also stated that he would send around information on Tree Board University.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 pm.