

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
February 13, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT Rick Ayers, Providence District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Butch Loughry, Fairfax County Park Authority
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Allcroft, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Dean Dastvar Springfield District
Mekell Mikell, Lee District
Scott Pearson, Mason District
Chet McLaren, At-Large
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

VACANT POSITIONS: Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County

STAFF PRESENT: Jack Baggett, Urban Forester II, UFMD
Craig Herwig, Urban Forester III, UFMD
Todd Nelson, Urban Forester II, UFMD
William Marsh, Tysons Urban Center Coordinator, DPWES

Call to Order

Chair Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

Introduction of Tree Commission Members and Staff

Since there are many new faces at the meeting tonight, Chairman Vickers requested that everyone introduce themselves. A special welcome was extended to new Hunter Mill District Tree Commissioner; Dragan Momcilovic.

Review/Approval of the January Minutes:

The January minutes were approved as amended.

Presentation on the Tyson's Corner Urban Treescapes

Mr. Marsh gave a power point presentation on the planning and execution of tree conservation efforts by DPWES at the extensive redevelopment project at Tysons Corner.

2014 Fairfax Springfest Update

Springfest will be held on Saturday, April 26 at Lorton Workhouse between 10am-4pm. It is a combination of Earth and Arbor Days. Last year over 3,000 people attended the event. The Tree Commission has secured a table for this event. Commissioner Kadet recommended that there be 2-hour shifts of Tree Commissioners to man the display. At the April Tree Commission meeting display content and time slots for Tree Commissioners to work at Springfest will be firmed up.

Supervisor Chairman Bulova has expressed concerned that last year's attendance for the Friends of Trees award and the presentation of the Tree City USA citation was very low. She suggested that the Friends of Tree awards be presented at a Board of Supervisors meeting instead of at Springfest. Chairman Vickers will contact Supervisor Bulova's office to discuss this option further.

Friends of Trees Award Update

A nomination form for Friends of Trees award has been produced by staff and was distributed to the Tree Commission. Planning Commissioners should also be included in nominating individuals and groups for this award. Friends of Tree's Award nominations are due March 28. Selection of recipients should be done at the April Tree Commission meeting.

Tree Preservation Awards Process Update

Hugh Whitehead (UFMD-Forest Conservation Section) is spearheading the changes to the process of selecting the Tree Preservation and Planting awards. He is reaching out to the building community to enlist their ideas on the awards' process. He will meet with the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA) at their next meeting on March 13.

Tree Commission and Celebrated Tree Website Update

Craig Herwig said that Joan Allen (UFMD-Forest Pest Management Section) is waiting on content from the Commissioner Mikell for the Tree Commission website.

All new and additional content to the Tree Commission website needs to be approved by the DPWES Web Content Management Team. Cathy Lemon is the Web Content Manager for DPWES. Joan is the Tree Commission's staff contact for making changes to this website. If you have new content or links for the Tree Commission website, please contact Joan, who will work with Cathy to see if the content meets the standards of the Web Content Management Team, and if it does will post it.

Chair Report

Chairman Vickers reported that Joan Huber of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County(VCE-FC) has resigned from the Tree Commission. He is working with Adria Bordas, Unit Coordinator of VCE-FC to find a replacement for Joan.

UFMD Report

Keith Cline has been hired as the new Director of UFMD. He will start on March 24. Troy Shaw or Craig Herwig will be on hand for the March Tree Commission Meeting. Samantha Wangsgard of UFMD-Forest Conservation Section wants to know if Tree Commissioners have seen any "Tree USA" signs along roads in Fairfax County. If Commissioners do see one, please let Samantha know.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Quigley said at the last meeting, she distributed a calendar of Tree Commission events and asked for edits. If you have edits, please let her know. She will e-mail the calendar out to everyone. She is also working with Commissioners Mikell, Peters and McGlone to revise

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the Tree Action Plan. They met on a recent Saturday and were able to get some advice and direction from DPWES Director James Patterson who happened to come by.

Commissioner Schoonmaker cannot make meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month and asked if the Tree Commission can change the date to either the 1st or 3rd Thursdays. He will send out an e-mail to all Tree Commissioners to see if this can be done. If a new day of the month is selected, Tiffany must be notified so a meeting room can be arranged.

Commissioner Kadet mentioned that a large residential development is being planned in Braddock District at the corner of Lee Highway and Shirley Gate. Craig Herwig suggested that she contact Hugh Whitehead who can give her any information she needs on this project

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.