

## TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

*Draft*

March 19, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chairman, Dranesville District  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension  
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District  
Butch Loughry, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chairman, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Pearson, Mason District  
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District  
Rick Ayers, Providence District  
Mekell Mikell, Lee District

VACANT POSITION: Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Springfield District

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Drunasky, Urban Forester II, UFMD

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

### **Minutes**

Commissioner Vickers announced that Dean Dastar has not been to a meeting in over a year and the Springfield District Supervisor's office has been notified that a replacement is necessary. February minutes were reviewed and approved by the commission with the edit noted.

### **Tree Forum Update**

Commissioner Allen announced there are two forums already scheduled: (1) March 24<sup>th</sup> at the McLean Community Center, 7:30-9:30 pm, Protecting Neighborhood Tree Cover; (2) April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Braddock Hall, 7:30-9:00 pm, How to Protect and Preserve Trees in Yards. She also announced that Providence, Mt. Vernon, and Hunter Mill Districts along with Great Falls Citizens Association showed interest.

### **Springfest Update**

Commissioner Kadet mentioned they have three people per shift that have volunteered. She has been talking with Joan Allen to get ideas of activities for kids to participate in. Chairman Vickers mentioned that he will bring an extension cord, his laptop to display champion trees, case, dolly, tree cookies and a jar of candy bars. Commissioner Kadet discussed the Fairfax County Tree Commission handout that describes their role and will be handed out at Springfest.

### **Friends of Trees (FOT)**

Chairman Vickers discussed his nomination of Merrily Pierce who is currently the Vice Chairman of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee of the McLean Citizens Association for her long term efforts to preserve trees in McLean. He also reported that he asked Sharon Bulova's staff when they could present these awards during a Board of Supervisor meeting. No other nominations have been

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2015

Page 2 of 2

brought forward at this time. Chairman Vickers motioned the commission vote on his nomination of Merrily Pierce for a FOT award, which was unanimously passed.

### **Website Update**

Chairman Vickers wanted to recognize all the work that had been done by Joan Allen, Tina Gum, and Rick Ayers on the website. Commissioner Vickers reported he is trying to obtain old records in order to put together a list of past FOT and Tree Preservation and Planting Award winners to have added to their website.

### **Speaker Topics**

Chairman Vickers presented the list of 12 potential speaker topics for upcoming meetings that Commissioner Quigley had developed, which was followed by a lengthy discussion about the topics. The list of topics for speakers was narrowed down to the following: (1) Getting the developer's to buy-in regarding tree preservation (speaker not yet determined); (2) Environmental restoration efforts at Old Colchester Nature Preserve (speaker John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority); (3) Tree Preservation Ordinance in Fairfax County (Keith Cline and Craig Herwig).

### **UFMD Report**

Nick Drunasky reported UFMD has offered positions to both Rachel Habig-Myers and Ian Fuze who have filled two of the three vacant Urban Forester II positions. Interviews are currently being conducted to fill the third position. Nick also reminded people of the emerald ash borer seminar that will be targeting homeowner associations which will be held at Green Spring Gardens on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 and referred people to the website and handout for more information.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- \* Commissioner Loughry mentioned his office is in the process of trying to fill two tree trimmer vacancies, but have not been successful. Currently they have no tree climbers. They are in the process of reorganizing the department and determining how to remove hazardous trees, which may be done by contractors.
- \* Commissioner Schoonmaker had nothing to report.
- \* Commissioner McLaren had nothing to report.
- \* Commissioner Kadet reported that Supervisor Cook will not be able to attend the Tree Forum in the Braddock District on April 22nd, but his chief of staff will be in attendance. Samantha Wangsgard, Jim McGlone, Adria Bordas, and a representative from Merrifield Garden Center will be presenting.
- \* Commissioner Peters mentioned that five people were injured in a serious crash near his house when they swerved to miss a deer and headed into the woods at which point their car burst into flames. He also reported that the farmers market in Great Falls will be serving venison from four donated deer that will be cooked in a nine foot long smoker.
- \* Commissioner Allen reported on the accomplishments of the Virginia Cooperative Extension plant diagnostic lab during the year 2014.
- \* Commissioner McGlone announced the next NoVa Roundtable will be held at Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks. On May 27<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned that deer tenderloins sliced very thin with various spices are excellent.
- \* Commissioner Momcilovic displayed the aerial imagery behind Best Buy depicting a strip of riparian forest that will be removed with the construction of a new road, proposed soccer field, and nine home subdivision.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.