

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
April 21, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension
Jessica Bowers, Lee District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Rick Ayers, Providence District

VACANT POSITIONS: Springfield District
Mason District
Fairfax County Park Authority

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director UFMD
Jay Banks, Urban Forester II, UFMD

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Minutes

The March 17, 2016 minutes were reviewed and edits were discussed and relayed to staff. Motion to approve by Commissioner McGlone, seconded by Commissioner Quigley, unanimously approved.

Presentation on Native Species by Margaret Fisher and Vice-Chair Jim McGlone

Introductions of the commission members present and a brief introduction from the presenters lead the discussion. The presentation and discussion focused on the Plant NOVA Natives initiative. Ms. Fisher described the groups outreach efforts to date which has been concentrated on local nurseries and helping them to promote native plants to homeowners. She continued by saying that volunteers are welcome to helping to advance the program.

Springfest

Commission Kadet reminded those commissioners that had volunteered to work their booth at the festival and reviewed some of the items and activities that will be at there this year. One of which will be for younger attendees to spin the tree wheel and answer tree related questions for a prize. Chairman Vickers also added that he will bring a tree cookie and a map showing the location of State Champion trees in Fairfax County.

Update on Communication with Joe Marx

There was a brief discussion about the presentation from Mr. Marx but there was no true update to share with the commission.

Tree Forums

Chairman Vickers informed the commission about the Great Falls Forum in March, the McLean Citizens Association Forum on infill lot plans, and of the County's new hotline number, 703-324-7470, for citizens to report potential construction violations.

Commission Allen mentioned two upcoming forums one in Sully district and the other in Mt. Vernon district.

UFMD Report

Director Cline announced that Hugh Whitehead will soon be sending out an invitation to reconvene the commission members who are on the Tree Action Plan Workgroup.

Additionally, the letter from the Commission to the Board of Supervisors for support regarding the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund has been signed and will be forwarded to the Board.

Director Cline announced that on May 24th he will be presenting to the Board of Supervisor's Environmental Committee regarding Supervisor Foust's Board Matter concerning the application of the Tree Conservation Ordinance with County projects. He also mentioned he had made a presentation to the Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

Director Cline asked Commissioner Bower to relate her meeting with Branch Chief Craig Herwig. She stated it was very informative and suggested other commission members would find it informative as well. Director Cline extended the invitation to meet with Mr. Herwig to all commission members.

Lastly, Director Cline mentioned that Urban Forester II, Jay Banks, had recently presented to the Urban Forestry Management class at West Virginia University.

Commissioner Reports

Chairman Vickers reported he is working with the Board of Supervisor's Chairwoman Bulova on when they may be able to present the Friends of Trees awards. He also mentioned that Urban Forester II, Joan Allen, has updated the Commission's on-line roster and he would like to know if the commission members would like to list their contact information. He will ask each member to respond individually as to their preference. Lastly, the Fairfax County Park Authority has said they should have a new candidate for their open position by May.

Commissioner Bower reported she has been working with Commissioner Quigley during a recent activity to remove English ivy and discussing the problem with Homeowner Associations and Landscapers.

Commissioner Allen shared a handout listing upcoming Fairfax County Master Gardeners Plant Clinics from May through September 2016.

Commissioner Quigley reaffirmed the ivy pulling activity and briefly discussed future presenters to upcoming commission meetings. Presented the Mt. Vernon Voice press coverage of the Potomac Watershed Clean-up. Passed out a reference sheet on the Value of Trees she had prepared for an Embark meeting.

Commissioner Kadet reported she had observed and enjoyed staff's presentation regarding Emerald Ash Borer.

Vice Chair McGlone reported on and supplied some hand-outs regarding the following:

- Next Urban Forestry Roundtable, May 26, Sustainable Sites
- Soil and water Conservation District (SWCD) Assistance Program
- SWCD seedling sale, the date has past but there may be seedlings left
- SWCD Rain Barrel workshops
- Pollinator Meadow project at the Government Center, May 12th and 14th
- Was a contributor to an evaluation of the high school Urban Forestry curriculum for the Virginia Department of Education

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.