

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 15, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Sheila Allen, VA Coop. Extension (pending BOS approval)
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Butch Loughry, Fairfax County Park Authority
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Mekell Mikell, Lee District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Ayers, Providence District
Dean Dastvar Springfield District
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Scott Pearson, Mason District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District

VACANT POSITIONS: Environmental Quality Advisory Council

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management
Frank Finch, Urban Forester, Urban Forest Management

GUESTS: Teresa Lepe, Chief, Building Design Branch, Capital Facilities
Bobby Zaeni, Capital Facilities

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Introduction of Tree Commission Members and Staff

Chairman Vickers requested that Committee members, staff and guests introduce themselves. Sheila Allen will be the new commissioner representing Cooperative Extension, pending Board of Supervisor approval.

Presentation

Teresa Lepe of Capital Facilities presented a powerpoint providing overviews of the Building Design and Construction Division, the Fairfax County Sustainability Policy, and the Project Development Process. Ms. Lepe's presentation focused on tree preservation issues on County construction projects.

Review/Approval of the April Minutes

The April minutes were approved unanimously.

2014 Fairfax Springfest Follow-up

The Commission noted that the event was well attended by many families with children. The Commission discussed the possibilities of having activities targeting children to educate them as well as the parents.

Tree Cookie Presentation

Chairman Vickers reported that three tree cookies were to be presented on May 29 at a Reston Civic Association board meeting. One cookie was to be presented to Hunter Mill District

Supervisor Hudgins, one to the Reston Civic Association and the third to the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Tree Commission hopes to present a cookie to Board of Supervisor Chairman Bulova and the rest of the Board in June. The remaining Cookie will be presented to Urban Forest Management.

Chair Report

Chairman Vickers will be working on a draft of the Tree Commission's input into the Environmental Quality Advisory Committee's (EQAC) annual report on the environment. Mr. Vickers also mentioned that Commissioner Ayers has digitized the champion trees within the county and forwarded them on to Virginia Tech.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Allen (Cooperative Extension) stated that the Master Gardeners will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Weaver Act of 1914, establishing Cooperative Extension. Commissioner Allen relayed a question from Adria Bordis, -if the Tree Commission thought it would be possible to conduct a continuing education program involving the Tree Commission, Master Gardeners and the Tree Stewards over the summer.

Vice-Chair McGlone (VDOF) reported that walk was conducted at Conway Robinson State Forest to highlight some of the management efforts taking place. It was also reported that the next Urban Forest Roundtable was to be held May 22. The focus of the meeting was to be the i-Tree suite of tools. Jim stated that the state has hired a new state forester, Bettina Ring. Lastly, Jim mentioned that there is a new building under construction at Fairfax Hospital that is using mostly invasive species in their greenscape.

Keith Cline (UFMD) discussed the EQAC report and that the entire UFMD would provide input to the report. It was also mentioned that the proposed Urban Forester III position has been approved and will be part of the new budget, it is hoped that the new position will be advertised in early July. The position will focus on the Tree Action Plan.

Commissioner Kadet (Braddock District) mentioned that there are a couple of complicated land use issues in Braddock District. She is trying to get to the sites and is working with Samantha Wangsgard to get details on the projects.

Commissioner Mikell (Lee District) asked the commissioners to provide her the names of the local papers in their districts and would try to see that commissioner bios be placed in them so that the residents of the district could see who the Tree Commission representative is.

Commissioner Peters (NVSWCD) updated the committee on the Great Falls Deer Control Initiative. He would like to see this as a pilot program for the County.

Commissioner Vickers (Dranesville District) mentioned there was a successful Grange Anniversary Fair. Commissioner Vickers Conducted a tree walk in which he made mention of the endangered oak grove. Board of Supervisor Foust's staff has been made aware of the issue.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.