

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

June 19, 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
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Rick Ayers, Providence District
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Dastvar Springfield District
Scott Pearson, Mason District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District
Mekell Mikell, Lee District

VACANT POSITIONS: Environmental Quality Advisory Council

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management
Craig Herwig, Section Chief, Urban Forest Management

Call to Order:

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Review/Approval of the April Minutes:

The May minutes were approved unanimously.

UFMD/Tree Commission Annual Report:

Chairman Vickers began the meeting with a discussion of the Tree Commission Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Considerable discussion ensued regarding the most effective method to communicate the concerns of the Tree Commission and the citizens they represent regarding tree preservation and other tree related issues in the County. Some suggestion to communicate to the BOS was during the presentation of the "Tree Cookie" to the Environmental Committee and BOS on September 30, 2014, or in the Annual Report of activity on the Tree Action Plan. The Commissioners will continue to discuss what type of formal mechanism would be best to communicate tree related issues to the BOS.

Chairman Vickers has prepared a report regarding Tree Commission activities for inclusion into the EQAC report regarding UFMD activities and direction.

Infill Lot Grading Plans:

The Commission discussed an e-mail sent by the Chesterbrook Forest HOA regarding the lack of tree preservation on several lots where the existing homes are removed and larger homes are constructed on the lot (infill development). UFMD staff review infill lots where builders request a deviation to the tree preservation target. County staff must insure that the infill lot development is in compliance with the Tree Conservation Ordinance. UFMD staff cannot require the preservation of more than the minimum requirement as outlined in the Tree

Conservation Ordinance. The Chesterbrook Forest HOA is pursuing a commitment from builders building in the Chesterbrook Forest community to volunteer to provide additional tree preservation over and above what is required by the County. A suggestion was made by Commissioner McGlone to approach higher tree preservation levels within the community through HOA Covenants (civil contract). Commissioner McGlone raised the point that the urban forest should be considered infrastructure, providing numerous benefits beyond aesthetics. The Tree Commission agreed to continue the discussion of tree preservation on infill development sites.

Commissioner Reports

Chairman Vickers (Dranesville District) discussed the most recent Urban Forest Roundtable meeting. The Chairman also discussed an individual in Arlington County that is providing 3-4 day presentations to schools regarding trees and other environmental issues. He also mentioned UFMD's tree planting efforts at Belvedere Elementary School that involved the entire third grade and the teachers creating a educational program about the event.

Commissioner Loughry (Park Authority) mentioned hiring a new staff member was approved. He also stated that he has a database regarding the number of trees pruned and removed on Park Authority property.

Commissioner Allen (Cooperative Extension) mentioned that VCE this summer is going to conduct a continuing education program with Master Gardeners, Tree Stewards and Tree Commissioners that will focus on the mission and goals of the Tree Commission as well as the Tree Action Plan. She suggested sending the BOS monthly updates on Tree Commission activities.

Keith Cline (UFMD) Announced the Urban Forester III position has been approved and will be advertised shortly.

Commissioner Kadet (Braddock District) made an observation regarding the impact of the development taking place at the old "Garden World" site on Rout 29.

Commissioner Momcilovic (Hunter Mill District) discussed his input in the redesign of a soccer field in a park in the Tysons Corner area.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.