

## **TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**July 21, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Rick Ayers, Providence District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
Tony Vellucci, Fairfax County Park Authority Board  
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Jessica Bowser, Lee District

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large  
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension  
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District

**VACANT POSITIONS:** Springfield District  
Mason District  
Fairfax County Park Authority

**STAFF PRESENT:** Troy Shaw, Urban Forester IV, UFMD  
Joan Allen, Urban Forester II, UFMD

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Minutes**

The June 16, 2016 minutes were reviewed and edited. Motion to approve amended minutes by Commissioner Peters. Minutes were approved with one abstention.

### **Presentation by Joan Allen – Emerald Ash Borer and Biocontrol**

The presentation began with a history of EAB in Virginia and homeowner control options was followed by a description of the County's control efforts on publically owned trees. The latter half of the presentation emphasized two parasite projects that are being conducted in the County. The University of Maryland is assessing the viability of EAB parasitoids and their establishment in urban areas. The second study is a project conducted by the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Department of Agriculture and is intended to inventory native parasitoids that may be used a biocontrol tool for exotic wood borers.

### **Urban Forest Strategic Plan Update**

Chairman McGlone gave a brief update on the Strategic Plan update process. The group comprised of Vice Chair McGlone, Commissioner Kadet, Commissioner Quigley, Commissioner Peters, Charles Smith of Stormwater Management, and Hugh Whitehead of Urban Forestry met on June 14, 2016 and decided on a structure of the Update. It is hoped that this project will be completed in early October.

### **Tree Forums**

Commissioner Allen was not able to attend the meeting but provided information to be relayed by Vice Chair McGlone. The October 17<sup>th</sup> Tree Forum, originally scheduled to be a Mount Vernon event, will now be a joint event between Lee and Mount Vernon districts. The Tree Forum is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm in the auditorium at Walter Whitman Middle School. It is titled “Keeping Trees Healthy and Canopy Strong,” and will be targeting homeowners to make them aware of the value, health, and economics of trees.

### **UFMD Report**

Troy Shaw reported on three vacancies in Forest Conservation. One position will be filled by Tom French who comes to UFM from Land Development Services. Interviews for two additional vacancies will take place in the upcoming weeks.

### **Commissioner Reports**

John Stokely reported that a large percentage of the tree removals being conducted on Park Authority property are ash trees that have been killed by EAB.

Vice Chair McGlone mentioned a report published by the Xerces Society that explored effect that neonicotinoids are having on bee populations. The report indicates that there are large data gaps that need to be addressed before assigning blame to current bee issues. Vice Chair McGlone will forward the article to the commissioners.

Commissioner Bowser announced that Nall’s Produce has put up a display that stressed the importance of native plants.

Commissioner Peters. Presented an article about mountain lions and deer populations. Presented an update on the status of Animal Control Department. The Board of Supervisors asked staff to review where animal control should reside. The results of the study indicated that animal control should reside in the Police Department or in Urban Forestry.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.