

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
September 18, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Rick Ayers, Providence District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Butch Loughry, Fairfax County Park Authority
Mekell Mikell, Lee District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheila Allen, VA Coop. Extension
Dean Dastvar Springfield District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Scott Pearson, Mason District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

VACANT POSITIONS: Environmental Quality Advisory Council

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester II, Urban Forest Management
Jack Baggett, Urban Forester II, Urban Forest Management

Call to Order:

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Review/Approval of the July Minutes:

The July minutes were approved as amended.

2014 Tree Conservation Awards Update

Hugh Whitehead presented an amended version of the award nomination forms. Several commissioners offered comments and edits for clarification purposes. Hugh will take those edits into consideration and then e-mail a new version of the form to all tree commissioners.

No nominations have been received to date.

Nomination process will end in the middle of October.

In late October or early November there will be an excursion for all tree commissioners to visit the nominated sites.

Website Design Update

Commissioner Ayers reported that there was meeting between several members of the tree commission and staff from the Fairfax County GIS office. The purpose of the meeting was to see what GIS technology the County uses so that the Tree Commission can better showcase good tree preservation and conservation efforts on the website. A meeting was also held with Tina Gum, who does website design for the County, about proposed changes to our website.

Commissioner Vickers stated that the current draft of the website is amazing, and that he hopes that the draft website can be published soon. It was suggested that all the commissioners' names and their districts be added to the site. Commissioner Quigley suggested an edit to the site that mentions that other tree related groups provide the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on tree related matters as well as the Tree Commission. As it's currently is written, it sounds like the Tree Commission is the only group offering advice to the BOS in tree related matters.

Motion by Commissioner Quigley: “That the tree commission authorize that the “draft” Tree Commission website be published with edits to include Tree Commissioners’ names and districts and the edit that Commissioner Quigley suggested”.

Motion Passed

Motion by Commissioner Ayers: “That comments to improve the website that were collected by Commissioner Kadet and accepted by the Tree Commission be added to the website by December 31, 2014.

Motion Passed

Tree “Cookie” Presentation to the Board of Supervisors

Tree Commission is to give the presentation on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 10:00AM for the Environmental Committee of the BOS. Chairman Vickers will use the opportunity to showcase what the Tree Commission is doing with new GIS technologies. It will take place in conference rooms 9 and 10.

Commissioner Reports

Chairman Vickers reported that the Park Authority is working to bring all of its facilities in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Park Authority is working to meet the ADA requirements with minimal impact to trees if possible.

Butch Loughry of FCPA stated that they are interviewing to hire a new tree trimmer.

Keith Cline, Director of UFMD, stated that UFMD is in the process of hiring an Urban Forester III (UFIII) who, amongst other tasks, will have the responsibility to implement the Tree Action Plan. The position was only open for County Employees. Should the new UFIII be a current UFII, then there will an opening at the UFII level. Additionally, two new UF II positions may be created to speed up the development process.

UFMD is working on developing I-Tree Hydro model for Fairfax County. When done it will model potential environmental impacts of increasing and decreasing tree canopy in the watershed.

Chairman Vickers asked Keith to have UFMD make a presentation on I-Tree Hydro at the October Tree Commission meeting and to possibly make a presentation to the BOS Environmental Committee in the future.

Commissioner Quigley stated that there are people in Mount Vernon and Lee District who are upset over the county’s fall cankerworm spray program. . Fall Cankerworms are naturally occurring pest that periodically defoliate sections tree canopy in Fairfax County. Troy Shaw, Chief of the Forest Pest Section will give a presentation of the Fairfax County’s cankerworm program at the November Tree Commission meeting. Katherine Wychulis a member and Board of Director of the Friends of Dyke Marsh will make a presentation as well opposing the spray program.

Lorton Landfill will be closing as planned. They will be re-foresting the area.

Commissioner Quigley attended the September meeting of the Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Round Table. It was outstanding.

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Chairman Vickers talked to Commissioner Peters. Commissioner Peters stated to him that there are people in the Sully District that are upset about the deer culling efforts utilizing archery.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.