

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

DRAFT

October 16, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Ayers, Providence District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Butch Loughry, Fairfax County Park Authority
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheila Allen, VA Coop. Extension
Dean Dastvar, Springfield District
Mekell Mikell, Lee District
Scott Pearson, Mason District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District

VACANT POSITIONS: Environmental Quality Advisory Council

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management
Nick Drunasky, Urban Forester, Urban Forest Management

Call to Order:

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

The Tree Commission was unable to conduct official business at the start of the meeting as a quorum was not present.

Presentation by UFMD on i-Tree Hydro:

Keith Cline gave an overview of the i-Tree suite of software that is available through the US Forest Service. He started his discussion by describing the simplest program in the suite known as i-Tree Design compared to the most complex program which is i-Tree Hydro. He then went onto describe other programs within the i-Tree suite (i-Tree Canopy and i-Tree Eco) along with other inputs (USGS stream gage data, soils data, digital elevation model, leaf area index, and our high resolution imagery) that are input into the i-Tree Hydro model. The i-Tree Hydro model is the first model of its kind developed that looks at tree cover and impervious surface within a watershed and how the tree cover present (or gains or losses in tree cover) will benefit stormwater quality and quantity. The i-Tree Hydro model will help us collaborate with the Stormwater Management group, allowing us to base our management decisions on the hydrological benefits of canopy cover as a way to help reduce total maximum daily loads (TMDL's) for stormwater management purposes. Commissioner Ayers asked if this model would allow us to compare these values over time. Keith and Nick both stated that this would allow us to compare over time by using past, current, and future imagery. Commissioner Ayers was also interested in the sharing of Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) and i-Tree Hydro results with various communities that could be used to target planting initiatives. Chairman Vickers stated that he felt i-Tree Hydro could also be used to calculate the potential value of the tree loss at any major site development.

Presentation by Adria Bordas, Unit Coordinator, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County:

Adria Bordas from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency with Fairfax County gave a presentation on the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agency. The major items she presented included the following: the history of the extension agency, agency mission, and the various programs and services offered (4-H, master food volunteers, food nutrition programs, master gardeners, diagnostic lab, pesticide education, horticulture workshops). Adria mentioned that the Cooperative Extension is known for building partnerships and would be open to any ideas people have. This led to a discussion led by Commissioner McGlone on the idea of having tree forums for all communities interested, which was something that had been done in the past with UFMD. Adria stated that various HOA's and civic associations that the district supervisors are aware of could potentially be targeted.

2014 Tree Conservation Awards Update:

Keith Cline updated the commission that there currently are three nominations. The deadline for acceptance of nominations has been extended to October 24th since the list of possible projects had not yet been distributed. Chairman Vickers asked that an RSVP be sent out for commissioners to attend the tour for the first week of November prior to the leaf drop. He also requested a vicinity map as well for each site nominated.

Commissioner Reports

Chairman Vickers stated that he thought the champion Virginia pine cookie presentation to the Board went well and had a good turnout. One of the tree cookies has been displayed in the lobby of the Herrity building. Chairman Vickers commended Commissioner Ayers for his map of the 21 county champion trees.

Commissioner Kadet brought attention to the VDOT statewide landscape tree replacement policy that is currently being developed. She also mentioned the improper pruning around power lines, which led to a discussion of utility pruning. Chairman Vickers requested that Commissioner Kadet volunteer to draft up a letter to support Keith Cline's position on VDOT's landscape replacement policy.

Commissioner Peters reported that a citizen in the Sully District whose property abuts property owned by the Park Authority is very opposed to the proposed archery hunt at that park. This hunt is part of the deer management program, but this citizen has drawn political involvement from the governor and Supervisor Frey. Commissioner Peters also mentioned that the Great Falls Civic Association did a forest and deer survey, which found that citizens support controlling the deer population 8:1.

Commissioner McGlone announced that on the next Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Council Roundtable meeting will be held on November 20, 2014 at Prince William Forest Park. He also reported that he found a report that Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered infecting Virginia Fringe Trees in Ohio. Lastly, he reported that while attending the MAC-ISA meeting at Virginia Tech, he heard that a dead 40 inch diameter white oak had been removed from the University Presidents house, which contained six; eight foot logs and has a value at the mill of approximately \$500.

Commissioner Schoonmaker reported that he ran into Supervisor Frey at the Environmental Committee Meeting and was informed that Supervisor Frey was very enthused about the Virginia pine tree cookie that he received from the Tree Commission.

Commissioner Momcilovic displayed the aerial imagery depicting a strip of riparian forest that runs parallel to Route 7 on its western side. He is concerned over the design for the proposed road to surround a proposed soccer field and run through part of the forested stream valley removing a large section of the last remaining forest in Tysons Corner.

Quorum Present:

Additional Tree Commissioners arrived at the meeting after its start, enabling the Tree Commission to conduct official business.

Review/Approval of the September 2014 Minutes

The September 2014 Tree Commission Meeting minutes were approved unanimously with a few minor edits as discussed.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.