

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

December 9, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension
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
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Dastvar, Springfield District
Mekell Mikell, Lee District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Scott Pearson, Mason District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District

VACANT POSITION: Environmental Quality Advisory Council

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD)
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

Call to Order

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

Minutes

November and December minutes will be reviewed and approved at the January meeting.

Tree Conservation Awards

Hugh Whitehead presented the nominated sites for Tree Conservation Awards. The Commission voted to give awards for tree preservation and planting as follows:

Tree Preservation: The National Library for the Study of George Washington
The Preserve at Scott's Run
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax

Tree Planting: Capital One
East Market at Fair Lakes, Phase III
Jennings Toyota
Newington DVS Maintenance Facility

Recognition: Callaway was voted to receive a letter of recognition for tree preservation work to date and based on continued good work to preserve and protect trees, this site can be nominated for an award once 90% of RUPs are issued.

Tree Forums

Commissioner Allen presented her work with Adria Bordas of Va Cooperative Extension (VCE) to develop a Tree Forum Program. Other anticipated partners include Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners, and the Tree Commissioners. Partners will work to develop and organize programs dealing with planting, maintenance, infill and other issues of concern. Booths would be available for Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners, and other environmental groups. Commissioners are encouraged to propose Tree Forums to their supervisors to be held in their respective districts.

Fall Cankerworm Spray Program

Commissioner Quigley reviewed and summarized presentations by the opponents of the cankerworm spray program and by Fairfax County's Forest Pest Branch. She proposed that the Tree Commission draft a resolution in support of the cankerworm spray program and encourage Commissioners to meet with their Supervisors to voice the Tree Commission's support of the limited, specifically targeted spray program using BTK to control cankerworm.

UFMD Director Keith Cline made the point that less than 1 percent of the tree canopy in the County is being sprayed and spraying is not done every year. He went on to say that due to this minimal area of treatment and the dilute solution of the BTK being applied, it seems unlikely that any great environmental impact occurs as a result the use of BTK in this application. Tree Commissioners present again voiced their support for the spray program.

Tree Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Nominating Committee

Commissioner McLaren reported that current Chair, Robert Vickers, and Vice-Chair Jim McGlone were nominated to continue their positions on the Tree Commission. Their nominations were seconded. Robert Vickers was voted Chair and Jim McGlone was voted Vice- Chair.

Commissioners briefly discussed the issue of members of the Tree Commission that repeatedly missed meetings and what could be done to replace them. It was concluded that members are appointed by the district supervisor and could not be replaced without the supervisor's approval.

Commissioner Reports

- * Commissioner Quigley: EQAC meeting December 10th at Hidden Oaks Nature Center.
- * Commissioner Kadet: Reminded Commissioners to save the date of April 25, 2015, for Springfest at The Workhouse Art Center, in Lorton. She encouraged commissioners to come and spend some time at the Tree Commission booth.
- * Commissioner McGlone: Hunters in Conway Robinson State Park for control of the whitetail deer population killed 15 deer.

UFMD Report

Keith Cline reported that the hiring process for open Urban Forester II positions is waiting on a list of certified applicants to be provided by Human Resources. UFMD hopes to hire two applicants in this round of interviews.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.