

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

December 17, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Ayers, Providence District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Butch Loughry, Fairfax County Park Authority
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Mekell Mikell, Lee District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Bill Schoonmaker, Sully District

VACANT POSITION: Springfield District, Mason District

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

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

Minutes

Approval of the November minutes were tabled until all commissioners had the opportunity to review them. Due to an email miscue, several commissioners did not receive the agenda or minutes prior to the December 17 meeting. Commission Quigley presented minor edits to the minutes.

Election of Tree Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Commissioner McLaren reported that the nominating committee put forth current Chairman Vickers and current Vice-Chairman McGlone as the nominees for 2016, to continue in their respective positions. The floor was opened to the commission for additional nominees; none were forthcoming. The Commission unanimously approved the nominating committee's recommendations for 2016.

Update on Vacant Tree Commission Seats

Officially, two vacant seats on the Tree Commission remain, Springfield and Mason Districts. Chairman Vickers noted that the Lee District Supervisor is actively looking for a replacement for the current Lee District representative to the Tree Commission, although the position has not been officially vacated. Keith Cline noted that a position is not officially vacated until it is noted by the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Vickers, later in the meeting, also announced that Bill Schoonmaker (Sully District) will be resigning from the Tree Commission, effective immediately.

Tree Action Plan Update

Hugh Whitehead, UFMF, presented his updates to the commission regarding updates to the existing Tree Action Plan (TAP). Hugh began by briefly discussing the reorganization of the Forest

Conservation Section of the Urban Forest Management Division. Hugh then mentioned that he met with commissioners Peters and Vickers to discuss the process of updating the TAP. Hugh would like to initially update sections 1 and 2 of the TAP, which focus on strategies. Hugh would like to work with a sub-group of the Tree Commission to update the TAP strategies. Once the strategies have been updated he would like to present them to other county agencies and outside stakeholders who are involved in implementing the plan to get their input. It was suggested by the TC that an outline be put together of the proposed changes to the TAP and presented to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to garner support for the changes by the BOS. It was determined that Hugh would send out a meeting request to the Tree Commission to schedule a meeting to work on an initial outline.

Deer Management Update

Commissioner Peters briefed the commission on the reorganization study of the Animal Services Division of the Fairfax County Police Department. After discussion it was determined that the Tree Commission should request to be included in the reorganization study. Commissioner Peters will represent the Tree Commission.

UFMD Report

Keith Cline reported that he will be facilitating a meeting between the Fairfax County GIS Office (Greg Bacon) and Commissioner Ayers regarding the Big Tree Project.

Commissioner Reports

- Chairman Vickers (Dranesville) briefed the Tree Commission on a meeting that he and Fairfax County staff attended and participated in at Supervisor Foust's office regarding in-fill development.
- Commissioner Loughry (Park Authority), who was attending his final meeting, said goodbye to the commission and expressed his gratitude and thanks to his fellow commissioners. The Tree Commission presented Commissioner Loughry with a copy of the Remarkable Trees of Virginia book.
- Commissioner Kadet (Braddock District) reminded the commission that it is time to start thinking about next year's SpringFest.
- Commissioner Quigley (Mt. Vernon District) briefed the commission on a development project on Fort Belvoir which included the clear cutting of 31 acres. She mentioned that comments, as part of the environmental assessment process, would soon be due and encouraged the commissioners to write letters expressing their concern. Keith Cline (UFMD) recommended that the letter urge Fort Belvoir to follow all aspects of the current Fairfax County Tree Preservation Ordinance during the planning and development of the site.
- Commissioner Quigley is trying to secure 2 speakers for the January 21 Tree Commission meeting. She would like to invite Leslie Johnson, the Director of Zoning Administration and Marianne Gardner the Director of Planning, to discuss proposed ordinance amendments and how this relates to tree preservation.

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- Commission Quigley will be meeting with the new Mt. Vernon District Supervisor to discuss her position on the Tree Commission, to ensure that they are on the same page.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.