

Fairfax County Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Monica Bilger, At-Large
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority
Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council

Vacant, Providence District

STAFF PRESENT: Joan Allen, Urban Forester III, UFMD Liaison
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III

Call to Order

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

Minutes

The December minutes were reviewed and approved with changes.

Intended Role and Priorities of Each commissioner for 2018

- Chairman Vickers asked commissioners to share the roles and responsibilities they would like to address in 2018.
- Commissioner Vickers
 - Create better interactions with the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA). As well as, seeing how the tree preservation ordinance can be improved
 - Continue to work on and finalize the Tree Action Plan (TAP)
 - Edit and finalize the bylaws
- Commissioner Holland
 - Will have a better idea of what his role should be once he meets with Supervisor Gross
- Commissioner Peters
 - Commission should have a greater involvement with deer management and how it relates to tree and urban forests

- Commissioner Bilger
 - Creating better public outreach concerning trees and their value. As well as, working more closely with the community
- Vice Chair McGlone
 - Once the TAP is finalized he would like to be active in the implementation process of the document.
 - Fixing web links and content on the county website
- Commissioner Kadet
 - Tree Forum in March
 - Communicate the importance of the TAP to Braddock residents.
 - Empower people to get stronger regulations in regards to Infill development
- Commissioner Campblin
 - Continue to edit and finalize the tree preservation award form
 - Future Tree Forum will focus on equity issues with trees
- Commissioner Ledec
 - Identify speakers for future tree forums
 - Continue to inquire and challenge redevelopment projects
 - Continue to edit and finalize tree preservation award form
- Commissioner Dragan
 - Plan a Tree Forum with the theme of relating the TAP to the public
- Commissioner Bowser
 - Community education and outreach through awareness and promotion
 - Create guides to HOA's on tree care and management

Proposed Joint Tree Commission/UFMD offsite and regular TC Meeting March 15 2018

- Rachel Habig-Myers has set a tentative date for the meeting on March 15th at 1:00pm following the regularly scheduled Tree Commission meeting. The date will be finalized pending the date of the NoVA Urban Forest Roundtable meeting.
- Chair Vickers wants to use the meeting time to focus on how to better leverage tree preservation in development.

TAP 2017 Update

- Hugh Whitehead updated the Tree Commission on the feedback and comments he received from stakeholders on the draft Tree Action Plan.
- Hugh Whitehead will complete his edits and resend the Tree Action Plan for further comments and edits.

Tree Preservation award ceremony on January 29, 2018

- Chair Vickers reminded the commission of the upcoming awards ceremony and encouraged them to attend.

- Chair Vickers informed the commission that former Commissioner McClaren is being recognized for his service to the County on January 23rd and encouraged them to attend.

Preparation's for Springfest 2018

- Commissioner Kadet informed the commission that Springfest is being held at the Sully Historic Site on April 21st. She will schedule shifts for the display table throughout the day. She needs 6 volunteers minimum for the event.

UFMD Update

- Hugh Whitehead reported that the Forest Pest Management Branch office will be moving to the 5th floor of the Herrity Building, next to the Forest Conservation Branch. The construction is projected to take place in August 2018.

Commissioner Reports

- Vice Chair McGlone
 - Bettina Ring is the newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
 - VDOF will be hiring a new state forester for the northern Virginia area. Position will share responsibilities with Vice Chair McGlone and will do urban forestry work.
 - The upcoming NoVA Urban Forestry Roundtable topic is tree planting survivability
 - Announced that House Bill 400 and 494 is currently under amendment. Current edits will remove the population density requirement for tree replacement during land development.
- Commissioner Kadet
 - The Braddock Tree Forum is scheduled on March 7th. All speakers have been confirmed.
- Commissioner Ledec
 - Announced, on January 24th, Supervisor Bulova is hosting a meeting on modernizing the County's Zoning Ordinance and encouraged commissioners to attend.
 - Announced, on January 25th, the Planning Commission will have a meeting where they will discuss comprehensive plan on Richmond highway.
- Chair Vickers
 - Announced that the Great Falls Citizens Association is interested in speaking with someone to address the costs of stream restoration projects and the process behind deciding what restoration projects are initiated.
- Commissioner Bowser
 - Informed the commissioners that Conservation Lobby Day is on January 22nd in Richmond

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Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on February 15, 2018, in Herrity 122.