

## **TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**January 21, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mekell Mikell, Lee District  
Rick Ayers, Providence District

**VACANT POSITION:** Springfield District  
Mason District  
Sully District  
Fairfax County Park Authority

**STAFF PRESENT:** Craig Herwig, Urban Forester III, UFMD  
Jack Baggett, Urban Forester II, UFMD

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

### **Minutes**

The November and December minutes were reviewed and approved by the commission members.

### **Presentation**

Modifications to the Planned Development Commercial Districts (PDC) and the Planned Residential Mixed Use Development Districts (PRM) and Related Changes-“Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment”

Leslie Johnson, Director of Zoning Administration, Department of Planning and Zoning  
Marianne Gardner, Director of Planning Division, Department of Planning and Zoning  
Ms. Johnson and Gardner gave a 1.25 hour presentation on a proposed zoning ordinance modification. This modification to the existing zoning ordinance would:

- Permit a higher maximum floor area ratio (FAR) in certain limited circumstances
- Require the inclusion of cellar space in gross floor area
- Clarify existing parking provisions and expand to include residential uses in Commercial Revitalization Districts (CRD)
- Add certain uses currently not permitted in these districts, subject to limitations

### **SpringFest**

Commissioner Kadet reminded the Tree Commission that SpringFest will be on April 30<sup>th</sup> and she needs volunteers from the Tree Commissioners. She is looking for ideas for the Tree Commission

display. Chairman Vickers said that more specifics will be ironed out at the March and April Tree Commission meetings.

### **Tree Preservation Awards**

Chairman Vickers said that the awards ceremony will be held on January 29, 2016 at 10:00am. All tree commissioners are urged to attend if they can. This is the first time that awards will be handed out for projects that have not cleared bond.

### **Friends of Trees Awards**

Chairman Vickers urged tree commissioners to think ahead of the coming "Friends of Trees" awards. He will be asking for the nominations at the April Tree Commission meeting.

### **UFMD Report**

Craig Herwig reported that the Forest Pest Branch hired a seasonal Urban Forester I. Josh Rudder started work on January 11.

Jack Baggett reported that Forest Pest Branch is in the midst of their fall cankerworm monitoring program. Although not ruled out entirely, it's doubtful that there will be an aerial spraying by helicopter this year, there may be a possibility of spot spraying "hotspots". Overall fall cankerworm population seems to be down this year.

The spotted lanternfly has been found in southeast Pennsylvania. This is an invasive insect from Korea that attacks grapes, apples, pines and stone fruits. It often attaches itself to the bark of tree of heaven. The Forest Pest Branch is seeking approval by the Commonwealth and the BOS to monitor for this pest.

Forest Conservation Branch provided training for the Engineering Survey Institute (ESI) on the Tree Conservation Ordinance.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Chairman Vickers (Dranesville) briefed the Tree Commission on a meeting between McLean Citizen's Association, and staff from UFMD, DPWES, County Executive Office, Supervisor Foust's office and State Senator's Favola's office. The meeting was held to discuss in-fill development issues. The Chief of Staff of Senator Favola's office is looking into introducing legislation requiring developers who submit plans to the county for infill lot developments and to post signs in the neighborhood.  
There is a 50 acre plot in Great Falls that is slated for development. It is meeting some community opposition.
- Commissioner Peters (NV Soil & Water Conservation District) talked about the on-going Animal Services re-organization study. Members of the Deer Advisory Council for Northern Virginia and of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, including Chairman Vickers, Vice-Chair McGlone, and Commissioner Peters, attended a focus group meeting to provide input to the re-organization study. Key points made by the group were that restoring forest health in Fairfax County depends on effective deer management, and that deer management must be implemented according to game management principles and laws as opposed to principles and practices of humane treatment of domestic animals. In addition, the County Wildlife Biologist's Office should be organized such that she can coordinate interagency activities

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related to deer management and advocate for funds and staff to accomplish the goals of the deer management program.

- Commissioner Quigley (Mt. Vernon District) briefed the commission on a meeting between State Representative Paul Krizek and environmentalist of his district. David Paylor of DEQ was in attendance. He noted the water supply in the coastal (Potomac) is dropping and will have an effect on wells downstream from Fairfax County.  
Supervisor Storck spoke to the Environmental Committee of the Mt. Vernon Council. He is very interested in environmental issues.  
Commissioner Quigley expressed concerned over comments made by Charles Smith at a meeting to discuss the Urban Forest Strategic Plan. Mr. Smith said that the Parks need to “preserve what we got”. Commissioner Quigley feels that it’s not enough to preserve, but there is also a need to rebuild and enhance our parks and eco-systems.  
Commissioner Quigley also told the Tree Commission that there has not been a response from Fort Belvoir about the environmental concerns expressed by the Tree Commissioners. However, there will be a spokesperson from the Army who will speak at meeting about these concerns. That meeting will take place the first week in February.
- Commissioner Kadet (Braddock District) told the commission that the Northern Virginia Training Center is up for sale. There is concerned that the trees around the 77 acre Center may be at risk.
- Commissioner Allen (VA Cooperative Extension) informed the commission that there is one tree forum scheduled at the Great Falls Grange on March 8 which will focus on in-fill development issues. UFMD will need to take the lead on developing this presentation. In the yearly Master Gardener newsletter, there is mentioned of the Friends of Trees Award that the Master Gardeners received.  
All Master Gardeners must now go through background checks.
- Vice Chair McGlone (VA Dept. of Forestry) reported that Lori Chamberlain has been appointed as Forest Health Specialist for VA Department of Forestry.  
Fairfax County has been approved for Tree City USA and Growth Award for this year.
- Commissioner Healy (EQAC) On January 13<sup>th</sup>, EQAC held its annual hearing and heard from 14 public witnesses. The dominant themes were climate change, invasive species, stormwater/clean water management.  
EQAC released its annual report on the environment. It has a good chapter on wildlife management and specifically deer. It is available on-line in pdf form.

### Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.