

**TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**February 16, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Catherine C. Ledec, Mt. Vernon District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Jessica M. Bowser, Lee District  
Tom Fleury, Providence District  
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Sheila D. Allen Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chet McLaren, At-Large

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jack Baggett, Urban Forester II, UFMD  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

**Call to Order**

Chair Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

**Minutes**

The January minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Infill Development**

The proposed amendment to the County's Tree Conservation Ordinance failed to pass at the February 14 Board of Supervisors meeting. The vote was 5-5. The proposed amendment would have required that the county post signs on properties where infill lot grading plans had been submitted to the county.

The Planning Commission voted 10-1 against the proposed amendment citing cost issues, extra time required to post signs and the likelihood that people may have unrealistic expectations after seeing the sign that there is a public input process on a by-right development project. There were several HOA representatives at the BOS meeting who did speak in favor of the amendment.

There are some plans for the county to develop a website that would inform HOAs and nearby neighbors that would be affected by an infill development.

**Celebrated Trees**

Commissioner Ayers said that further discussion needs to happen among the tree commissioners about this program. There needs to be buy-in support from the tree commission and county staff to develop and maintain a Celebrated Trees website. Commissioner Ayers and Stokely will be a committee to develop a geodatabase prototype app/program for Celebrated Trees that can easily updated by tree commissioners. There is a MOU from 2011 between the Tree Commission and

UFMD that outlines responsibilities of staff and tree commission in regards to Celebrated Trees. However, a new MOU may need to be written in order to update these responsibilities.

**Motion to have Commissioners Ayers and Stokely investigate the feasibility of creating a website for the public that will accept nominations of all categories of Celebrated Trees**  
**Motion seconded and passed**

### **Tree Preservation and Planting Awards Assessment Update**

Commissioners Kadet and Campblin met and compiled responses and feedback of a survey they sent out to tree commissioners and UFMD staff.. The purpose of the survey was to elicit feedback on how the tree commission can improve the nomination process for Tree Preservation and Planting Awards. Commissioners Kadet and Campblin discussed many of the suggestions they received to improve the nomination and award determination process.

Hugh Whitehead will put together a power-point presentation that would include before and after photos of nominated sites and share that with the tree commission prior to voting on award recipients. Hugh receives about 10-15 nominations each year and passes all complete nominations to the tree commission.

Commissioners Kadet and Campblin will meet with Hugh to further develop this process with the goal to create a new nomination form that the nominees can easily fill out. Once a draft form is created, they can share the form with other tree commissioners for comments

### **Tree Action Plan**

The Tree Action Plan is gone through staff edits and will be ready to send out to tree commissioners, supervisors and other agencies on Friday, February 17. Feedback deadline will be March 15.

### **2017 Fairfax Springfest Update**

Springfest will be held on Saturday, April 29 at Sully Historic Park between 10am-4pm. Tree Commissioners are needed to staff the tree commission table in three shifts: 9:30-12pm, 12pm-2:15 and 2:15-4:30

Commissioner Kadet will send an e-mail to all tree commissioners to sign-up for a shift.

### **UFMD Report**

The week of February 20<sup>th</sup>, Keith will be teaching at the Municipal Forestry Institute.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Holland said that Nick Drunasky, Urban Forester II or the Forest Conservation Division made a good presentation at the Mason District Town Hall meeting.
- Skipped the Urban Forest Liaison (Jack Baggett) report, who was going to talk about his role in addressing hazard tree issues in Fairfax County

- Commissioner McGlone mentioned that the next Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable will be on February 23 at Wetland Solutions in Gainesville, VA. The topic will be underground utilities while preserving trees.  
Bills were introduced in the Commonwealth House and Senate to classify “running bamboo” as a noxious weed. This will make it illegal to sell running bamboo in Virginia.
- Commissioner Bowser is continuing to work with her HOA to remove invasive plants and is working with Nalls Produce to improve their native plant selection.
- Commissioner Ledec talked about the approved re-zoning for the North Hill project. It’s a 35 acre property in which 30% of it will be a passive public park. It will also have multi-family affordable housing and senior living. There will also be market rate townhouses developed. Work continues with Planning Commissioner Flanagan to save a few large trees at this site.  
The Environmental Vision Statement is out for public comment. She urged all tree commissioners to submit their comments.  
Mount Vernon Town Hall meeting was on February 4 and was well attended. UFMD had a table.
- Commissioner Kadet announced that the Braddock District Tree Forum will be October 4, 2017
- Commissioner Campblin is working with a 9<sup>th</sup> grader who is concerned about the Westfields development. She is trying to find a way to get her involved.
- Commissioner Allen reported that Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County has 40 new Master Gardener interns. There are now 399 Master Gardeners in Fairfax County. Master Gardener training is continuing through March. 2016 sample report is out. 32% samples were tree related. She discussed the major plant issues they received.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.