

Fairfax County Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Monica Bilger, At-Large
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Campblin, Sully District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Vacant, Providence District

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, UFMD Director
Troy Shaw, Forest Pest Branch Chief
Rachel Jackson, Urban Forester II
Jack Baggett, Urban Forester II

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:37pm

Minutes

The January minutes were reviewed and approved as amended

Presentations to the Tree Commission

- Troy Shaw gave a presentation on UFMD and the Fairfax County Police Department efforts to identify and combat predatory tree care practitioners who prey upon the elderly and mentally disabled. Often robbing these vulnerable citizens of tens of thousands of dollars
 - Several tree commissioners asked Mr. Shaw to develop a one page flyer on how to choose a tree care company and avoid these scam operators. Flyers could be used at tree forums and other tree commission and UFMD events. They should also be set out at government centers, libraries and other public places. It was also recommended that the flyers be produced in multiple languages

- Rachel Jackson gave a presentation on all the information and process that goes into a Tree City USA application. If commissioners or staff have suggestions of activities to include in the application, please e-mail or call Rachel Jackson

Big Tree Registry

- Rick Ayers has been doing a great job of developing and maintaining the Big Trees website

Joint Tree Commission/UFMD Retreat

- Tree Commission/UFMD Retreat is planned for April 19th at 1:30pm at the main government center. It's asked of UFMD staff and tree commission to put together a "short" biographical paragraph
 - Several commissioners expressed that they want to attend the retreat but since it's during the day, it would conflict with their work. Chairman Vickers stated that he would communicate with Rachel Habig-Myers and Keith Cline to discuss moving the starting time back so more tree commissioners can attend

Tree Action Plan (TAP) Update

- Chairman Vickers and others on the TAP committee members have received a lot of feedback from stakeholders. Some of the comments they got back was based on mistaken assumptions that could have been avoided if the document was fully read through. But most of the feedback was very supportive
- The deadline is to have the finished TAP ready by Springfest (April 21)
- Several Commissioners expressed concern about the title. Maybe a better title would be "Fairfax County Urban Forest Strategic Plan" to better reflect the intent of the document which is more of a strategic overview than a detailed action plan

Springfest 2018

- Is on April 21st. Commissioner Kadet needs TC volunteers to handle the two hour shifts at the Tree Commission booth
- Any booth ideas would be greatly appreciated

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Kadet
 - Braddock District Tree Forum is set for March 7th

- The wooded old Exxon-Mobile property near INOVA hospital is slated to be a new mosaic type center, this will probably mean the mass destruction of trees on the lot
- Commissioner Bowser
 - Plant NOVA Natives organization is doing a partnership meeting on Feb 27th to encourage groups to plant native species. One of the topics will be on how to work with an HOAs to plant more natives
 - Conservation Club of Kingstown is holding panel discussions every other month. They are looking for speakers. So if you know of any great speakers who could be on a panel, please let Commissioner Bowser know
- Commissioner Bilger
 - The Virginia Conservation Network is taking all the tree related bills that didn't pass the Virginia General Assembly will collect them and go back to the various bill sponsors to coordinate efforts to reintroduce the bills at a later session. The purpose is to create a more unified plan-of-attack. The Tree Commission may want to comment on a few of the new bills
- Commissioner Ledec
 - The Planning Commission hearing for the Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment happened. It concerns the Richmond Highway Corridor. The Planning Commission deferred their vote until February 22 to work on the plan language
 - Mt. Vernon Town Hall meeting was on February 3. Commissioner Ledec prepared a flyer on the benefits of trees and gave them out at the forum
- Commissioner Healy
 - EQAC public hearing meeting was last month. 22 witnesses spoke. The summary is on the EQAC website
 - VDOT salt use is a hot topic. On March 6, the American Water Resources is having a meeting on this subject

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on March 15, 2018, in Herrity 122