

## **TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**April 20, 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  
Tom Fleury, Providence District  
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Sheila D. Allen Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
Chet McLaren, At-Large  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Jessica M. Bowser, Lee District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council

**STAFF PRESENT:** Keith Cline, Director, UFMD  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD  
Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison

**VISITORS:** Jason Terlitzky-Parkside HOA

### **Call to Order**

Chair Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

### **Minutes**

The March minutes were reviewed and approved. Commissioner C. Ledec moved to approve and Commissioner T. Fleury seconded. Chair R. Vickers mentioned a need to update the Tree Commission website (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trees/treecommission/>) with most recent copies of the minutes.

### **Springfest 2017**

Commissioner J. Kadet explained details of volunteer schedule to staff the tree commission table. Explained to expect glitches due to new venue location at Sully Historic Site. Commissioner K. Holland mentioned that venue is good at handling large crowds. Commissioner J. Kadet will pass on logistic details and map of booth location when available. Explained that the outreach materials, games, and candy will be available at the table.

### **Guest staff and visitors were introduced**

L. Barfield, UFMD liaison explained was working with plan review in Hunter Mill. J. Terlitzky introduced himself as an HOA board member from Parkside of Fairfax. He had a few questions about white pines trees. Does HOA have obligation to replant trees? K. Cline summarized the question and provided feedback. H. Whitehead explained transitional screening yards and dependent on the approved site plan. K. Cline recommended that a copy of the original site plan

be reviewed and talk to the urban forester for the district and see what was required. UFMD will look into if any proffers, interior parking lot requirements, which might be required etc. Second question about getting a second neutral opinion about replanting white pines. K. Cline recommended [www.goodtreecare.com](http://www.goodtreecare.com) to look for a consulting arborist for an independent assessment from company that is not looking to do the work. Commissioner T. Fleury offered a pro bono-1 hour consult for the Parkside HOA. L. Barfield gave him a UFMD contact card.

### **Celebrated Trees**

Discussion generated about the program future. Chair R. Vickers discussed the data for the state big tree program. K. Cline discussed that some of the about 30 trees for the different categories such as favorite, memorial, specimen, etc. were nominated by the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner T. Fleury recommended to generate a form letter to those who have nominated to communicate that the nomination had been received. K. Cline discussed about posting the information to the tree commission website such as a list. A decision needs to be made what to do with the nominations that Commissioner K. Campblin has on file. The website could have a posting of the categories, draft a letter to the persons that submitted a nomination about the status of the nomination, invite to go to website to see posting, clear backlog. Chair R. Vickers explained he was checking the nominations against the big tree state list, he would go measure, take pictures, which generated about 25 or 30 candidates for the state list. Commissioner J. Peters mentioned that the Board Supervisor Sharon Bulova nominated a favorite tree and keeps waiting to hear if she ever received a letter of acknowledgement. Commissioner D. Momcilovic discussed that each tree could be added to a spreadsheet, perhaps a touching story could be explained or forum, someone just needs to do it. Motion was made by Commissioner C. Ledec to create a sub-committee of Commissioner K. Campblin and Commissioner K. Holland with Commissioner T. Fleury as advisor which was seconded by Commissioner K. Holland. Commissioner K. Holland volunteered to take the lead to make a spreadsheet list and recommend action plan. All in favor with an "I" vote.

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

Commissioner J. Kadet explained the results of survey and recent meeting held. A suggestion was made to reach out to the builders and landscape industry to promote the new nomination form. Chair R. Vickers recommended to post in newspapers. J. Kadet and H. Whitehead suggested to pilot the program first with a subset of people before a wide distribution. Chair R. Vickers wants to document the before and after development conditions. Commissioner T. Fleury stated that most developers have the data of the before conditions. Commissioner J. Kadet stated will send out to commissioners. Commissioner T. Fleury recommended to send form out to group of development industry landscape architects to get feedback. H. Whitehead, Commissioner T. Fleury offered to send some names of consulting Landscape Architects.

### **Tree Action Plan Update**

H. Whitehead stated committee met on 4-20-2017 and have incorporated comments made. Executive summary revisions still pending. K. Cline and H. Whitehead to meet to discuss process. May 18 meeting scheduled to review final draft. The next step after committee review is to engage stakeholder groups and County staff for review. Chair R. Vickers discussed

comments on executive summary being one page versus three. Part 2 the implementation is key and funding as budget is very tight.

### **Friends of Trees Award Nominations (Commissioner Vickers)**

Chair R. Vickers explained that awards are proposed to be merged into another county ceremony. He proposed to postpone the nomination process until the June agenda. Commissioner C. Ledec recommended to be on lookout for youth groups to nominate. K. Cline offered an update of a meeting recently held in BOS Sharon Bulova office and a new effort inspired by Fairfax First to combine the Friends of Trees Award ceremony with two other county awards the Environmental Excellence Award ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/environmental-excellence-awards.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/environmental-excellence-awards.htm)) and the Fairfax County Exceptional Design Awards ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/designawards](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/designawards)), that will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> @7:00p.m. at the Government Center-Board of Supervisors Auditorium with a reception to follow in the forum. Commissioner T. Fleury discussed the Fairfax First initiatives and the NAIOP (commercial real estate development association) Northern Virginia Chapter Focus on Excellence awards ([www.naiopva.org/awards.htm](http://www.naiopva.org/awards.htm)) and possibilities of integrating with other county ceremonies. He suggested melding trees, environmental, and design of which a big portion of the nominated projects are LEED certification oriented. The County government needs to demonstrate how the jurisdiction of 1.2 million is meeting carbon reduction and sustainability efforts.

### **UFMD/Commission offsite retreat (Commissioner Vickers)**

Chair R. Vickers made a proposal to set a date to meet offsite prior to a tree commission meeting. K. Cline explained the background for the meeting that since coming back to the County 12 years ago and years before that when with UFMD, he does not recall UFMD and Tree Commission working together to talk about the roles and responsibilities of the Tree Commission, why are you here, how UFMD can work with you, assist and be more effective. I don't remember a discussion or orientation for new members. Since there are a lot of new members, see a need to share how the tree commission was created, the bylaws, how operate, writing job descriptions for Chair, Vice-Chair, Members position, so everyone is on the same page. There is a Charter in the Zoning Ordinance, there are bylaws that were adopted in 1999, a new draft set was prepared in 2009 and was going to be presented to the Board of Supervisors but was withdrawn. He proposed a capacity building type workshop to show how other Boards work and how intend to work with the Board of Supervisors and explain how everything operates and help you understand your roles. Decision of when and where is up to the tree commissioners but urged should be a date everyone can attend. He will bring in an outside facilitator for the event. He was thinking of holding in one of the parks with a nice setting. Commissioner C. McLaren recommended to use McLaren picnic pavilion at Lake Accotank. Chair R. Vickers suggested reserving the picnic pavilion for Thursday, **June 15** for 4 hours. A suggestion was made by Commissioner T. Fleury for a barbeque after retreat and then have the regular meeting. Retreat was proposed be from 1:00-5:00 and then regular meeting afterwards.

### **Commissioner Reports**

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- Commissioner D. Momcilovic-A park clean-up was conducted several weeks ago, continuing to work with Clean Fairfax about trash issues.
- Commissioner J. Stokely-nothing to report
- discussion about a Beech tree
- Commissioner J. Peters discussion on pollen and trip to Costa Rica where no pollen
- Commissioner C. McLaren-nothing to report
- Commissioner R. Ayers -nothing to report
- Commissioner J. Kadet-nothing to report
- Commissioner C. Ledee-Three things-re-zoning Bock Farm; Huntington Levee project near Cameron Run has started-was a 30 million bond project. 10 acres of trees will be planted offsite as mitigation; see flyer for Wetlands Awareness Day at Huntley Meadows Park-Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The wetland restoration project was honored with a prestigious Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Gold Medal in the Environmental Project category (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir048-17.htm>)
- Commissioner S. Allen brought info on FFX Master Gardeners plant clinics <http://fairfaxgardening.org/plant-clinics/> and trends on winter damage especially on boxwoods
- Commissioner T. Fleury asked for feedback about if Supervisors refer citizens to commissioners. Mentioned availability of Red bud seedlings for the fall.
- Chair R. Vickers offered as courtesy to J. McGlone reminder of good work the Fairfax Releaf has done this past fall and spring. At Great Falls farmers market they distributed over 500 seedlings. Recommended as a way to draw a crowd at a very low cost. Handouts on how to plant a tree were also distributed. See links:  
<http://www.fairfaxreleaf.org/FFR/contact.html>  
- 703-324-1409- [trees@fairfaxReLeaf.org](mailto:trees@fairfaxReLeaf.org)  
Fairfax ReLeaf  
12055 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 703  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
Also mentioned that Commissioner J. Bowers was at a reception at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond; Vice-Chair J. McGlone was in a presentation possibly about solar panels and tree conflicts which resulted in a discussion. Proposed that Vice-chair J. McGlone make a presentation at the May meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.