

## **TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 19, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension  
Jessica Bowser, Lee District  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chet McLaren, Member At-Large  
Rick Ayers, Providence District  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

**VACANT POSITIONS:** Springfield District  
Mason District  
Fairfax County Park Authority

**STAFF PRESENT:** Keith Cline, Director, UFMD  
Nick Drunasky, Urban Forester II, UFMD

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

### **Minutes**

The April 21, 2016 minutes were reviewed and edits were discussed and relayed to staff. Motion to approve by Chairman Vickers, seconded by Commissioner Healy, unanimously approved.

### **Springfest Recap**

Commissioner Kadet reported that there were many commissioner volunteers along with guest volunteers who helped staff their booth. She was happy with the three table setup under the tent with other like-minded agencies. However, she expressed concerns for not having a physical location within the Urban Forestry Division Suite to store all the handouts and materials the commission uses for these outreach events. The kids that visited their area favored spinning the wheel of foliage over tree ring counting. Commissioner Bowser suggested having a handout next year that would capture both adults and children.

### **Tree Forums**

Commissioner Allen informed the commission that Commissioner Quigley is coordinating a Tree Forum in Mount Vernon scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm in the auditorium at Walter Whitman Middle School. It is titled "Keeping Trees Healthy and Canopy Strong," and will be targeting homeowners to make them aware of the value, health, and economics of trees. Commissioner Quigley stated that she would pose the question if Lee District should participate in this forum and suggested that Commissioner Bowser should also propose this question with her Supervisor. She also suggested that it would be best if Merrifield Garden Center does not participate in this event. Commissioner Allen also mentioned that Commissioner Campblin is coordinating a

Tree Forum to be held in the Sully District on either June 28<sup>th</sup> or July 11<sup>th</sup> and more information would be forthcoming.

### **Friends of Trees**

Chairman Vickers announced that he will be presenting the friends of trees awards to Commissioner Peters and Quigley, as well as Merrifield Garden Center on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in the Government Center Auditorium.

### **Urban Forest Strategic Plan Update**

Commissioner Quigley updated the commission that Commissioner Kadet, McGlone, Charles Smith, and she attended the meeting last week. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Charles Smith and Commissioner McGlone created an in depth outline as a five part plan. Both Commissioner Quigley and Peters stressed the importance of obtaining early buy-in during the process from decision makers through their inclusion, along with having accountability.

Director Cline explained how UFMD (Hugh Whitehead in particular) is working to create partnerships with other agencies who are viewed as stakeholders such as NVBIA, SWPD, BDCD, UDCD, and FCPS in order to get buy-in and compliance with the Tree Conservation Ordinance as well as the Urban Forest Strategic Plan.

Commissioner McGlone mentioned that on a related topic, Hugh Whitehead and Charles Smith were able to leverage the Board Matter on Bees in order to form the Natural Landscaping Committee, which received buy-in from various stakeholders allowing the creation of a Natural Landscaping Policy that will be incorporated into the Urban Forest Strategic Plan.

Chairman Vickers brought up the issue of tree removal for the creation of large fire stations and little replanting, which lead to a big discussion.

### **UFMD Report**

Director Cline announced that the Virginia General Assembly just passed new legislation that will take effect on July 1, 2016, which will severely restrict the County's ability to negotiate or suggest proffer language on developments with a residential component. He mentioned that the County Attorney is willing to attend the next tree commission meeting to discuss the implications to proffers this legislation will have.

### **Presentation by Keith Cline "Urban Greening and Sustainability"**

Director Cline provided a nice presentation to the commission titled "Urban Greening, Building a More Sustainable, Resilient and Economically Strong Community." His presentation focused on the website "Green Cities: Good Health" that captures and highlights forty years of scientific studies about urban greening for human health, and well-being to promote livable, sustainable cities made possible through the work of Dr. Kathy Wolf at the University of Washington in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Director Cline stressed that the County's "Healthy Community Design Initiative" is a good place to incorporate this research into Urban Greening.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Healy reported that EQAC wants to do a presentation to the Board of County Supervisors on infill development. He also discussed that the change in legislature on proffers caught EQAC off-guard as well, which lead to a big discussion.

Commissioner Allen mentioned the website [Fairfaxgardening.org](http://Fairfaxgardening.org), which includes information about the care of trees. It includes information on things to look out for each month in your garden and when to prune.

Commissioner Campbell reported that she has been working on and had submitted a timeline to Hugh for processing and applying for Tree Preservation and Planting Funds. She also mentioned that she collected information from a website that she incorporated into a brief brochure.

At the request of Commissioner Quigley, Nick Drunasky briefly discussed that he is the team lead for the Mt. Vernon, Lee, and Mason Districts. In addition, he mentioned that he has played a large role in establishing "Lake Ridge Deer Management and Conservation, Inc." a non-profit organization incorporated in early 2015.

Commissioner Quigley reported that on May 7<sup>th</sup> she attended a workshop at an Episcopal Church in Vienna that discussed spirituality in Nature and mediation. She also reported on an article she read that discussed deer sterilization in Stanton Island. Another topic she discussed was that Sally Lions who is member of history commission, discovered on her trip to Ames, Iowa that trees appeared to be healthier in that region than ours due to acid rain in our region. She also reported that Dominion Power is looking to construct a giant power line at the southern edge of Huntley Meadows Park where they have an easement. Lastly, Commissioner Quigley mentioned the Potomac River Keepers have a concern for coal ash within the Potomac River from Dominion Power.

Commissioner Kadet reported that Rosemary Ryan who is the land use aid in the Braddock District is retiring this month. She also mentioned that there was a meeting on Monday that discussed how to handle the various issues primarily regarding siltation at Lake Accotink.

Commissioner Peters inquired if Jim had a chance yet to respond to Mr. Marx and his stance on non-native invasive species. He also mentioned the upcoming Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable meeting that will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria.

Commissioner Bowser discussed her emails back and forth with the owner of her local nursery (Knolls) about combating local non-native invasive plants and is waiting to hear back from the owner.

Director Cline shared that he would be traveling to Tampa Florida next Thursday to attend the Urban Forestry Institute and presenting on the local perspective on stormwater regulations and where the urban forest fits into the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance regarding MS4 and TMDL permits. The focus of the daylong seminar will be stormwater management.

Commissioner McGlone discussed the upcoming Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable meeting that will be held at the Lee Center in Alexandria on the Sites Program as part of LEED Certification for Landscaping. He also mentioned a 12 acre parcel of land that recently sold in Springfield where the landowner is going to build a home and wants to preserve as many trees as possible. However, most of the site is overrun with non-native invasive species. Lastly, he looked at the Old Colchester Preserve with the Park Authority and saw a nice upland oak/hickory forest with few invasive species compared to the floodplain that contains many invasive species.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.