

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
September 15, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Eleanor Quigley, Mt. Vernon District
Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Jessica Bowser, Lee District

VACANT POSITIONS: Mason District

STAFF PRESENT: Troy Shaw, Urban Forester IV, UFMD
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Chairman Vickers introduced John Stokely of the Fairfax County Park Authority. Commissioner Stokely will represent the Park Authority on the tree Commission.

Minutes

The July 21, 2016 minutes were reviewed and edited. Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner Quigley and seconded by Chairman Vickers. Minutes were approved.

Tree Forums

Commissioners Allen and Camblin stated that the Sully District Tree Forum will be held on October 6, 2016 at the Fair Oaks District Police Station. Commissioners Quigley and Bowers will be hosting a Tree Forum for Lee and Mount Vernon Districts on October 17, 2016 at Walt Whitman Middle School. Commissioner Momcilovic provided an update on his discussion with Supervisor Hutchins. Due to the geography of Hunter Mill district, two tree forum may be held in the Spring.

Status of the Tree Action Plan

Hugh Whitehead discussed changing the name "Tree Action Plan". Hugh indicated that Director Cline felt that it is important to keep the name "Tree Action Plan" because of clarity and continuity. Some commissioners pointed out that using the term "urban forest" would be more appropriate to the goal of the document. It was agreed that this will be a continuing topic of discussion in the future. Hugh pointed out that Director Cline (and others) suggested that the definition of Urban forest could be placed in the document itself. Another meeting to discussed the Tree Action Plan will be held on October 21st from 1pm to 3pm in the Urban Forest Management office.

Tree Preservation and Planting Awards

Chairman Vickers discussed the “recognition” awards from 2015 and their bearing on this year’s awards. The purposed of these awards, other than recognition for superior forestry practices, is to allow the recipient to use the project/award as a marketing incentive. Nominations for awards are due by September 30, 2016 and Commissioners will be invited to tour the nominations in October. Further discussion provided new commissioners a primer on what the award process involves. Commissioner Healy offered to construct a “story map” on the projects.

Hugh Whitehead stated that there were 7 projects were nominated in 2015 for recognition awards (6 were awarded for recognition). All of the projects are now eligible for awards in 2016

UFMD Report

Director Cline is in Waynesboro, VA at a workshop and is making a presentation titled ”Stormwater Regulations and Tree Canopy”. Chairman Vickers asked if Director Cline could make the presentation to the Commission. Urban Forest Management has filled three new positions: Tom French, Rachel Jackson, and Patrick O’Brian.

Troy Shaw of the Forest Pest Management is finding that pest populations are down. Plans are being made to change the mission of Forest Pest to Forest Health. One of the first projects for this program will be to conduct an Itree Eco® survey that will evaluate forest health county-wide.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Quigley announced that she will be leaving the Tree Commission following the October meeting. The Commissioners expressed gratitude for Eleanor’s many years of service and best wishes in the future.

Commissioner Ayers reported that he is now the commissioner of the Springfield District.

Commissioner Momcilovic reported on ongoing stream restoration planning meetings in Hunter Mill District.

Commissioner Peters presented an update on the Animal Services reorganization study. This study is ongoing.

Commissioner Kadet reported on the Land Use Committee in regard to the proffer issue and its impact on trees. Commissioner Kadet shared a publication that was included in her Dominion Power bill that encourage “right tree, right place”.

Commissioner Allen reported that the Neighborhood Plant Clinics will close at the end of September however the help desk will remain open at the VCE office and Green Spring Gardens in Annandale. From May to September over 440 samples were submitted to the clinics. 170 of the samples were from trees and shrubs. Adria Bordas will be a speaker in the October meeting and will provide an update on the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.