

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

09/20/2018 Room 122 Herrity Building

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:36 p.m. on 09/20/2018 in 122 Herrity Building by Chairman Robert Vickers.

Present

Keith Cline, Director, UFMD

Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

Rachel Griesmer-Zakhar, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison

Kevin Holland, Mason District

Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District

Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council

Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry

Jessica Bowser, Lee District

Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

Monica Billger, At Large

John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority

Catherine Ledec Mt. Vernon District

Visitor (Braddock District)

Absent

Rick Ayers, Springfield District

Karen Campblin, Sully District

Vacant Seat, Providence District

Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Approval of Minutes

Several edits were proposed to July Minutes: Minutes should be capitalized, "Friends of Trees" needs to be capitalized including removal of the Tree Action Update (no updates) and Tree Commissioner Reports were missing. Cathy Ledec motioned to accept the Minutes with revisions and the Minutes for the July meeting were unanimously approved.

Friends of Trees Awards

Discussion developed regarding the policy of awarding FoTA (Friends of Trees Awards) to individuals who work in the tree industry (e.g. urban foresters, government employees, conservationists, tree commissioners). One nomination was received for this year for an urban forester with the City of Herndon: John Dudzinsky as well as a posthumous nomination for John Palmer, Landscape Architect with Fairfax County. Suggestion to emphasize wording to focus on above and beyond [volunteering] activities.

Form states that volunteering is necessary, but of spurious origin. Commissioners decided that if a government employee (or other tree industry professional) is doing an exceptional job, allow the award but make note of his employment and note the things he/she does that is beyond their job description. One instance in 2014 of a Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District employee receiving a FoTA.

Jerry Peters moved, seconded by Rick Healy and unanimously approved to accept all nominations with edits that were discussed. Current nominations need photos.

Current Nominations:

1. John Palmer (Posthumously). Landscape Architect, Stormwater Planning Division.
John lived in Silver Spring, MD.
2. John L. Dudzinsky, Community Forester, Herndon VA
753 Grace St.
Herndon, Va. 20170
703 689-3362
Dranesville District
3. Earth Sangha, Inc.
10123 Commonwealth Blvd.
Fairfax, VA 22032-2707
Countywide
4. Plant NOVA Natives
Countywide
5. Chet McLaren
7717 Bellington Court
Springfield, VA 22151
Braddock District
6. Creekstone Communities
10431 New Ascot Dr.
Great Falls, Va 22066
Dranesville District
7. Valerie Mawdsley
7506 Walnut Hill Lane
Falls Church VA 22042

Providence District

Other

Visitor from Fairfax Gateway community in Braddock District announced complaint of tree removals in conservation (common) area by neighbors. Wants to restore that area, 22-30 trees removed without replacement. Suggestion to talk to Jeanne Kadet (Tree Commissioner for Braddock District) and UFMD can assist her.

Tree Action Plan Update

Supervisor Gross will present the updates to the Tree Action Plan as a Board Matter to make it more expedient. County staff will meet with the Environmental Committee on October 2nd at 1:00 p.m. and give a presentation explaining the process. Need a letter of endorsement from the Tree Commission with Bob's signature to help move along the approval of the Tree Action Plan.

Jerry Peters made the motion to have Bob Vickers send a letter to Supervisor Gross that the Tree Commission recommends approval of the Tree Action Plan, Kevin Holland seconded.

Park Authority Report

John Stokely presented the annual report of the Natural Resource Management Plan for FCPA.

Tangential discussion: identify "tree deserts" for possible mitigation locations. Fairfax County IT-GIS is going to work on comparing tree cover to demographic data to target future plantings. Goal to have completed by December 2018. Strong potential partnership with Fairfax One initiative.

Legislative Initiatives

Monica Billger is working with the Fairfax County Federation to ascertain the top priorities for environment and identify champions.

Cathy Ledec announced that she provided information to Irene Haske to develop a brochure for the Tree Commission/Tree Preservation and Planting Awards.

Tree Preservation and Planting Awards

Submit nominations before Sept. 30 (nomination forms are on the UFMD Trees webpage). Additional nominations are needed. Suggestion that Tree Commissioners can go to Supervisors' Offices to ask staff about development projects for potential candidates to nominate.

UFMD Report

Keith Cline announced his retirement date of January 2019 and that Rick Healy will be one of 6 on the interview panel. The UFMD Director's position was posted and is now closed with 16 potential candidates from the initial sort.

Commissioner Reports

Bob Vickers announced he is resigning as Chair of the Tree Commission. Jeanne Kadet, Kevin Holland and Jerry Peters are on nomination committee (for both chair and vice-chair). In October the committee will bring forth their nominations but additional nominations are allowed at that meeting. December meeting will host the vote. Announced that the Tree Commission will obtain a memorial maple tree for Dragan's son to plant where his son is buried along with a plaque. He suggested that Fairfax ReLeaf as a resource to provide the tree.

Jim McGlone: VA Department of Forestry's strategic plan is going to make an effort to emphasize health benefits of trees (i.e. urban forestry). Northern VA Regional Commission is putting together list of practices (including urban forestry) for communities to receive credit as for their activities as part of the regional water quality plan. Training is planned for VDOT certified arborists for the Urban Forest Strike Team (increase ability of VA to respond to disasters). Waynesboro workshop postponed from Sept. 19 to Dec. 6. Keith Cline and Jim McGlone will meet with new Health Dept. staff (Anna) who has a great interest in combining urban forestry and public health.

Cathy Ledec invited Commissioners to attend the November 10 Mt. Vernon District environment expo from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Format is workshop focused with an exhibit hall as a follow-up to the 2016 Tree Forum. Keith Cline will help brainstorm ideas on environmental topics in order to attract more people. She will send an email out to advertise the event.

Rick Healy: EQAC July voted on its environmental excellence awards which will be held Tuesday Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. with a reception.

Jessica Bowser: Looking for speaker to present on recycling in the Kingstowne community (beyond the basics). Rachel GZ provided speaker contact.

Dragan Momcilovic: Hunter Mill District Tree Forum will be held on November 7 in Vienna. Invited to join Supervisor Hudgins to film a promotional video with channel 16 for the Tree Forum.

Future Additional Action Items

- Need photos relevant to Friends of Tree Awards for use in publications
- Bob Vickers send a letter to Supervisor Gross that the Tree Commission recommends approval of the TAP
- Submit nominations for Friends of Tree Awards before September 30
- Fairfax County IT-GIS is going to work on comparing tree cover to demographic data to target future tree plantings. Goal to have completed by December 2018
- Invite Anna Ricklin from Health Dept. to come and speak to the Tree Commission about urban forest and human health (add to October schedule).

New Business

Summarize the discussion for new issues, state the next steps, and assign any action item.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. by Chairman Robert Vickers. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on October 18, 2017, in Herrity 122.

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Griesmer-Zakhar, Urban Forester II UFMD

Approved by: [Name]