

# **Fairfax County Tree Commission**

## Meeting Minutes

11/29/2018 Room 122 Herrity Building

### **Opening**

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:38 p.m. on 11/29/2018 in 122 Herrity by Chairman Robert Vickers.

### **Present**

Keith Cline, Outgoing Director, UFMD  
Brian Keightley, Incoming Director, UFMD  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD  
Rachel Habig-Myers, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison  
Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
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

### **Absent**

Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Vacant Seat, Providence District  
Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Jim McGlone motioned to accept the Minutes for the October meeting, which were unanimously approved.

### **Introduction of New Director:**

Keith Cline introduced Brian Keightley as the New Director of the Urban Forest Management Division. Brian took over responsibilities of the Director position on November 26, 2018.

## **Tree Action Plan Update:**

One Fairfax Language revisions are being considered.

## **Tree Preservation and Planting Awards:**

### **Tree Preservation Awards:**

- 1. Rivermont:** Project is not near completion, but suggested for full preservation award. Bob Vickers moved to give award, seconded by Jerry Peters. Vote was tied, so motion failed. Rick Ayers moved to award site preservation recognition, seconded by Jim McGlone, all in favor, motion carried.
- 2. Reston Excelsior Parc:** Submitted by developer. Bob Vickers moved to not approve award, seconded by Jim McGlone, citing steep slope down to drainage area and unbuildable area as only area of preservation. There were no indications that area of preservation exceeded tree preservation target amount. All voted in favor of rejection of application.
- 3. Reston Eastgate:** Building sited with maximizing tree preservation in mind, as well as entrance drive. Building site was chosen by finding area of sparsest vegetation on otherwise forested lot. Trail was field located to avoid tree impacts. Monica Billger moved to give award, seconded by Kevin Holland. 8 voted in favor of award, motion carried.
- 4. Reserve at Oakview:** Small subdivision sited to allow preservation of one large red oak, additional plantings provided above 10 year tree canopy requirement to provide additional screening to existing neighborhood. Cathy Ledec moved to give award, Rick Ayers seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 5. 12495 Ox Trail:** Corner lot, southern red oak on corner, which buyer or developer wanted to save. Sign provided by builder stating “This tree is worth \$80,000”. Jerry Peters moved to give award, Jim McGlone seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- 6. Lot 501, New Alexandria:** This site got a recognition award last year. Single family home torn down “by hand”, allowing for preservation of most of vegetation onsite, including 2 large maple trees onsite. Cathy Ledec moved to give preservation award. Jim McGlone seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Tree Planting Awards:**

- 1. Rivermont:** Proposed for recognition, as approximately 10% of plantings are in. After initial statements that no plantings were required, the “above and beyond” aspect was questioned. 10 year tree canopy requirements were exceeded by approximately 1,000 square feet. Bob Vickers moved to award a recognition, Jim McGlone seconded. One in favor, motion failed.
- 2. Reserve at Oakview:** Proposed for Planting Award. Plantings provided along tree save areas around perimeter of subdivision, largely evergreen species. Not all native species, however nonnatives chosen were better suited to site conditions. Jim McGlone moved to give award, seconded by Rick Ayers. Further discussion questioned whether plantings were “above and beyond”. 10 year canopy requirement was doubled on this site, no plantings were required at all on this site. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Tree Preservation Recognition Award**

- 3. Piney Run:** Citing cooperation of developer in field locating trail to reduce impacts to larger trees and stream to preserve more trees following plan approval. Trail was originally planned to go through forest and would have to be graded more to allow for ADA compliance, was later decided to be field located to minimize impacts to natural environment. Cathy Ledec moved to nominate site for recognition, seconded by Jerry Peters. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Postponement of Election of Tree Commission Chair and Timing for December Meeting:**

One of candidates for Chair of Tree Commission was absent due to unexpected circumstances, so the vote was postponed by consensus. After a show of hands, the date for the December meeting was also moved back to December 20, 2018. A request was made for each candidate for Chair of Tree Commission to create a written statement expressing their interest in and goals in office of Chair.

### **UFMD Report**

Keith Cline discussed Z-MOD, the Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project. He received a request yesterday (11/28/18) to modify Article 19, which is the Tree Commission’s Charter language that does not fit the role, skills, and interests of the current commission. He counselled that edits should be considered by the December meeting in order to take advantage of this language that was previously viewed as difficult to alter, however with the current effort underway could be accomplished rather

easily if efforts are begun quickly. Bob Vickers stated that he would contact Rick Healy about the matter.

Also, UFMD has renovated Suite 518, and both Forest Pest and Forest Conservation Branches are now located in the same offices. Please come visit and check out the new space, just knock to be let in!

### **Commissioner Reports**

Jeanne Kadet was invited to the Burke Conservancy to participate in their Tree Forum on November 8, 2018. It went very well, with 60-70 participants. They plan to do one again next year.

Cathy Ledec held the Mt. Vernon District Environment Expo on November 10 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Support was provided by 4 staff from UFMD. Various talks and presentations in 8 concurrent sessions discussed broad environmental themes. The exhibit hall included over 30 exhibitors. It was a very successful event with over 100 citizens in attendance. Anticipated to be yearly event.

Dragan Momcilovic: Hunter Mill District Tree Forum was held on November 9 in Vienna. This event also attracted about 60-70 people, an enthusiastic crowd. UFMD staff contributed to an “excellent” and informative evening. This day also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> establishment of the country of Yugoslavia. Dragan Momcilovic’s grandfather was a forester, and a soldier charged with protecting the forests near his village from illegal tree cutting and poaching during World War II.

Bob Vickers shared a news article from the Arlington Sun Gazette regarding the Arlington Tree Action Group who attending a Tree Commission meeting last year. Brian Keightley commented that the Arlington County Forestry Commission did a very good job of appropriately wearing their different hats in different situations and not representing themselves as members of county entities when in other arenas.

Jerry Peters shared a big leaf maple leaf, from his October trip to British Columbia, Canada.

Jim McGlone: Town of Leesburg has recently recreated and filled City Arborist position. City of Fairfax is putting in a budget request to create an Urban Forester position. Currently, there is one certified arborist on their tree crew.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. by Chairman Robert Vickers. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on December 20, 2018, in Herrity 122.

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Habig-Myers, Urban Forester II UFMD