

Fairfax County Tree Commission  
**APPROVED Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, November 2, 2023

**Call to Order:**

Chair Speas called the November 2, 2023 meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 6:50pm, after Dir. Brian Keightley helpfully resolved technological issues.

Chair Speas reviewed the rules on remote attendance and requirements for a quorum. She then called the roll.

<b>Name</b>	<b>District/Agency</b>	<b>Calling in from</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Cindy Speas, Chair	At-Large		Present
Elaine Kolish, Vice-Chair	Mt. Vernon District	Virtual from Mt Vernon*	
Jeanne Kadet	Braddock District		Present
Barbara Ryan	Dranesville District		Present
Jessica Bowser	Franconia District		Absent
Bret Leslie	Hunter Mill District		Present
Kevin Holland	Mason District		Absent
Rose Hendricks	Providence District		Present
Cory Suter	Springfield District		Present
Perry Rhodes	Sully District		Present
Rick Healy	EQAC	Virtual from Annandale	
John Burke	FCPA		Absent
Jerry Peters	NVSWCD		Present
Brenda Frank	VA Coop Extension		Absent
Vacant	VDOF		Vacant

\* Medical reasons

Chair Speas called a quorum, and began the meeting by recognizing attending staff:

Patricia Greenberg, Urban Forest Management Division  
Louis Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney  
Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division

**Public Comment Period:**

Chair Speas asked for any members of the public to identify themselves, and if they wish to address the Commission. No members of public were present.

**Approval of the October 5, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes:**

Chair Speas called for any corrections to the draft minutes for October 5, 2023. Jeanne Kadet made one correction.

***Commissioner Leslie moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Hendricks seconded. The motion was carried with all in favor, no abstentions.***

Chair Speas then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-business Meeting of the Tree Commission's Community of Practice on September 20.

***Commissioner Ryan moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Peters seconded. The motion was carried with all in favor, no abstentions.***

### **Old Business:**

- Chair Speas then passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Kolish so that she could make a motion. ***Commissioner Speas moved that the Tree Commission go into closed session in order to receive legal advice on FOIA regulations from the county attorney and to protect attorney-client privilege. Commissioner Leslie seconded. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions. The Tree Commission went into closed session and the recording was stopped.***
- Chair Speas announced the closed session was ended. With Elaine Kolish holding the gavel, ***Commissioner Speas moved that the Tree Commission followed all regulations in not voting on any Tree Commission business during the closed session. Jerry Peters seconded. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.***
- Chair Speas passed around the Board of Supervisors Resolution that had been placed on a plaque. Chair Speas and Bret Leslie presented to the full Planning Commission Meeting, where many of the Planning Commissioners spoke approvingly of the work of the Tree Commission. Brett Leslie shared Key Points from the October 25, 2023 Planning Commission meeting.
- Chair Speas thanked Brian Keightley and Patricia Greenberg for their work on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Tree Commission on October 24 and October 25. Chair Speas noted that at the Board of Supervisors' proclamation on October 24, she passed out a QR code directing the Supervisors to the Tree Commission's Annual Report on its website. At the tree planting event on October 25, Congressman Gerald E. Connolly's staffer presented a plaque containing the text of a resolution recognizing our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary into the Congressional Record of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. Both plaques will reside in the offices of UFMD.

### **New Business:**

- Commissioners Leslie and Hendricks generously agreed to serve as a two person Nominating Committee for the December 7, 2023 election of Officers. Chair Speas duly charged them with contacting each commissioner for nominations or to declare an interest in a self-nomination. After discussion, Chair Speas proposed that the Tree Commission hold elections only for chair and vice-chair in December, and delay choosing a secretary until after the charter is approved and a new job description for secretary can be written and approved. Charter language includes the idea that the Tree Commission can have an election at any time it chooses. An election for secretary would likely be held in February, 2024.

- Chair Speas proposed the Tree Commission hold a winter retreat. After discussion, all commissioners were asked to hold January 25, from noon to 3pm. It will be confirmed by staff, who will check with our facilitator and locate appropriate space. This retreat would take the place of the February 1 meeting. Proposed meetings for 2024 are: January 4<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> September 5<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and then January 9<sup>th</sup> of 2025.

**UFMD Director's Update — Director Brian Keightley:**

- Dir. Keightley announced he has received a final data deliverable regarding tree canopy coverage and is preparing that data for public release.

**Commissioner Announcements:**

- Brett Leslie is serving on the Tysons Forest Community Task Force that is evaluating challenges and potential recommendations for protecting more than 40 acres of contiguous forest in the area.

**Chair Speas adjourned the meeting at 8:52pm.**