

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

Draft

December 15, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Vickers, Chairman, Dranesville District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Sheila Allen, VA Cooperative Extension
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Cathy Ledec, Mt. Vernon District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Rick Ayers, Springfield District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chet McLaren, Member At-Large
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jim McGlone, Vice Chairman, VA Dept. of Forestry

VACANT POSITION: Providence District

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Herwig, Urban Forester IV, UFMD
Joan Allen, Urban Forester II, UFMD
Ian Fuze, Urban Forester II, UFMD
Keith Cline, Director, UFMD

VISTORS PRESENT:

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Minutes

The November minutes were reviewed and approved by the commission.

The Tree Ordinance: A Case Study

Urban Forester Fuze presented the concepts of UFMD's role in plan review and using the tree preservation ordinance. To explain these concepts he used a current plan in Dranesville and reviewed several components of it including the limits of UFMD's authority, other regulations that are considered such as storm water mitigation, and methods UFMD use to compromise with developers to save trees.

Celebrated Trees

Director Cline presented the current state of the Celebrated Trees program and the backlog of submitted applications that have not been reviewed. Commissioner Ayers gave a motion to reevaluate the program during a future tree commission meeting. Commissioner Peters seconded that motion. Director Cline will submit all applications received to Commission Campblin.

Tree Preservation and Planting Awards

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Commissioner Kadet and Campblin are soliciting comments on the Tree Preservation and Planting Awards from the Tree Commission. They will be emailing a survey form and have requested commissioners to complete the survey before the next Tree Commission meeting.

Presentation/Discussion of stream restoration project

Due to technical difficulties the presentation was not given. It will be presented at the next meeting.

Commissioner Reports

- Chairman Vickers announced that he is seeking nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman. Voting for these position will occur in the next meeting.
- Commissioner Kadet filled out the application for Springfest Fairfax 2017. The event will take place at the Sully Historic Site on April 29th. She also reported that State Delegate Watts expressed concerned over tree removal at the turkey run stream restoration in her community. Director Cline will contact staff in Stormwater about the State Delegate's concern.
- Commissioner Momcilovic discussed a recent public meeting concerning a stream restoration near Route 7 where concerns from homeowners was expressed.
- Commissioner Ledec discussed a 34 acre site being developed near Huntley Meadows. She is coordinating with County staff about her concerns. She also discussed a 54 acre site being proposed for development in Fort Belvoir Army Base. She has submitted her comments to the plan but has not heard any feedback yet.
- Commissioner Bowser reiterated the importance of focusing on the Embark Study as it moves forward.
- Commissioner Peters asked if there had been an update about the Tree Action plan last month. Chairman Vickers stated that this project is still in process, with contributions from various members of the committee. Mr. Whitehead is coordinating efforts, and it is hoped that deliverables will be ready for dissemination to the commission in December 2016. Implementation is the difficult part, without proper implementation the purpose of the plan is in question. Commissioner Peters mentioned contributions from Charles Smith and Jim McGlone. The project will continue to be named the "Tree Action Plan" with the first chapter being titled "Urban Forest Management Strategy". Agencies will add chapters which will be their implementation plans for the strategy.
- Commissioner Allen encouraged commissioners to discuss and plan future Tree Forums with their Board of Supervisors.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.