

Fairfax County Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority
Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Karen Campblin, Sully District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Monica Bilger, At-Large
Tom Fleury, Providence District
Kevin Holland, Mason District

STAFF PRESENT: Keith Cline, Director, UFMD
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III
Patrick O'Brien, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Minutes

The November minutes were reviewed and approved with changes.

Discussion of the Interaction/Relationship between the Tree Commission and UFMD

- Chairman Vickers discussed some difficulties that he anticipates when the Tree Preservation and Tree Planting Awards nomination process transitions from Urban Forest Management Division to the Tree Commission.
 - Chairman Vickers believes the Commissioners would benefit from the insight that Urban Foresters could provide on the nomination process.
 - Keith Cline noted that the role of the Tree Commission is to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on urban forestry related issues that matter to the Tree Commission and not get too involved in the plan review process or interpreting the Public Facilities Manual.
- Chairman Vickers emphasized the important role that tree forums play in gathering information about urban forestry related issues that matter to the public and partner organizations.

- Commissioner Bowser brought up the Commissioners previous request for business cards and requested an anticipated timeframe for when they will be ready. Keith Cline would send out an email request for the contact information of each Commissioner that should go on their business cards.
- Chairman Vickers suggested that the Tree Commission present award winners with plaques.
- Chairman Vickers suggested that UFMD and the Tree Commission consider working together more closely on events such as Springfest and various tree forums.
- Chairman Vickers announced an online mapper developed by Rick Ayers that highlights state champion trees and other notable trees that could be a useful tool for the Tree Commission.
- Chairman Vickers asked the question if there should be a single point of contact for Urban Forest Management Division. Keith Cline recommended contacting the appropriate Urban Forester if the question is about a specific district. Any question could also be routed through Keith who will provide the relevant contact person.

Tree Action Plan Update

- Hugh Whitehead updated the Tree Commission on the draft Tree Action Plan that was sent to each of them with instructions to get feedback from their supervisor about any additional stakeholders that their supervisor believes should have the opportunity to review and comment on the Plan.
- Hugh Whitehead distributed a list of stakeholders contacted by email to solicit comments on the draft Tree Action Plan.

UFMD Update

- Keith Cline mentioned that the 1999 bylaws are the current operating policies and any desired changes or clarification of the bylaws could be discussed at the next check-in retreat in March.
- Chairman Vickers brought up the approval process for changes to the bylaws and the status of the 2007 draft bylaws.
- Chairman Vickers mentioned that the summary notes drafted by Rachel Habig-Myers should be discussed at the January commission meeting.
- Commissioner Healy volunteered to take the lead on bringing the draft 2007 bylaws up to date.
- Keith Cline announced that Joan Allen had accepted the new Urban Forester III position in Forest Pest.
- Keith Cline mentioned a forthcoming presentation about i-Tree Eco by Forest Pest.
- Hugh Whitehead reminded everyone that the Tree Preservation and Planting awards ceremony is scheduled for the last Friday in January.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Ledec
 - Requested topics from other Commissioners that they would like to learn about or discuss at future Commission meetings, or expertise that other Commissioners would like to share.
 - Discussed how Tree Commissions need to collect information from partner organizations about their accomplishments with regard to the Tree Action Plan.
 - Updated the Commission on seven development projects in the Huntington Metro Station area.
 - Encouraged involvement in the Embark public meeting on January 10th regarding a Comp Plan amendment for the Richmond Highway Corridor.
 - Announced an upcoming salt management strategy being developed by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 - Announced that Arlington County is updating their 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan, which includes parks and recreation and tree canopy.
- Commissioner Healy
 - Discussed the EQAC presentation made to the BOS on November 21st and summarized the public outreach questions raised at the meeting.
- Chairman Vickers
 - Met with the representatives of development community who expressed their interests in tree preservation and the challenges they face.
 - Suggested inviting a member of the NVBIA who can discuss the responsibility of the development community in regard to tree preservation.
 - Brought up a briefing about a vernal pool survey being conducted by the Park Authority.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on January 18, 2018, in Herrity 122.