

Fairfax County Tree Commission
Electronic Meeting Format
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 16, 2021
Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936
Participant Access Code 224765

Call to Order

Chair Ledec called the December meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. on December 16, 2021, via Electronic Meeting.

From the Chairman:

To conduct this meeting wholly electronically and to effectuate both the emergency procedures authorized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in compliance with Virginia FOIA, the Fairfax County Tree Commission to make certain findings and determinations for the record. It's a bit cumbersome, so I ask you in advance for your patience.

Audibility of Members' Voices

First, because each member of the Fairfax County Tree Commission is participating in this meeting from a separate location, we must verify that a quorum of members is participating, and that each member's voice is clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all the other members. Accordingly, I am going to conduct a roll call, and ask each the Fairfax County Tree Commission member participating in this meeting to state your name and the location from which you are participating. I ask that each of you pay close attention to ensure that you can hear each of your colleagues. Following this roll call, we will vote to establish that every member can hear every other member.

See Roll Call Below

At this point, I will pass the virtual gavel to the Vice-Chairman McGlone, so that I may be heard to make the requisite motion.

I move that each member's voice may be adequately heard by each other member of this the Fairfax County Tree Commission.

Second: Commissioner Speas, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes

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PRESENT:

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District-Alexandria, VA
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA
Cindy Speas, At-Large-Falls Church, VA
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District-Annandale, VA
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District-Great Falls, VA
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District-Vienna, VA
Jessica Bowser, Lee District-Fairfax, VA
Laura Beaty, Providence District-Fairfax, VA
Cory Suter, Springfield District-Fairfax, VA
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council-Annandale, VA
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority-Arlington, VA
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District-Great Falls, VA
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension-McLean, VA
Kevin Holland, Mason District-Falls Church, VA
Karen Campblin, Sully District (joined after roll call)

ABSENT:

STAFF:

Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division
Tiffany Gregory, Urban Forest Management Division
Nicole Wynands, Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation

GUESTS:

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Public Comment:

None

Approval of September & November Minutes

Chair Ledec asked for any changes/edits for September minutes. No changes or edits were offered.

Commissioner Leslie moves to approve September meeting minutes, Commissioner Holland seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Chair Ledec, ask for any changes/edits to the November minutes. No changes or edits were offered.

Vice-Chair McGlone moves to approve November meeting minutes, Commissioner Suter seconds, no opposition, motion carries

ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan-Nicole Wynands & Chris Wells, FCDOT

PowerPoint presentation of ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan. Presentation can be viewed at [ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/active-fairfax-transportation-plan)

Q & A Session with Commissioners

Nomination & Election of Officers-Commissioner Vickers & Leslie

Commissioner Kadet nominated Commissioner Speas for the new Chair of the Tree Commission. Commissioner Vickers called for any others. No other nominations were brought forth. Commissioner Vickers then read a brief history of the work that Commissioner Speas has done for the environment and invited Commissioner Speas to speak. Commissioner Speas accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Vickers asked for a vote and all were in favor. New Tree Commission Chair will be Cindy Speas on January 1, 2022.

Vice-Chair McGlone agreed to continue to serve as Vice Chair in 2022.

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Awards Update #2-Commissioners Kadet & Beaty

Currently requesting comments on the proposed changes to award criteria. In the future, would still like to encourage UFMD to be involved in putting forward nominations for awards. In the future, looking into having a pamphlet developed to help engage the community-Supervisors community newsletters specifically. Reaching out to other groups-Chambers of Commerce, etc. Reevaluate what's effective with awards.

Directors Update-Brian Keightley

Casey Trees Plantings

Route 1 tree plantings have started. Applicant rate went up when Casey Trees started advertising more via social media, etc. Casey Trees can plant approx. 300 trees per year. UFMD will work towards having a full planting program with the Tree Commission's report.

VaTech Soil Study

Testing soil media for water & nutrient flow and how it relates to trees.

Community of Practice

Contract for meeting has been executed.

UFMD Vacancies & Business

4 current vacancies-2 Urban Forester I's & 2 Urban Forester II's

Consultant hired for staff augmentation for field inspections.

Working on Comparison charts with staffing levels with Dep of Planning and Land Development Services.

Commissioner Activities

Commissioner Vickers & Commissioner Peters

McLean Citizens Associations endorsing recommendations

Vice-Chair McGlone

Plant drone that can plant 100,000 trees a day-shoots seedings into the ground at the proper depth. Can be useful in areas after logging or wildfires.

Craig Herwig-MAC ISA awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award

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Commissioner Leslie

Someone in Vienna donated \$20k to remove invasives-project will be implemented by 2023.

Commissioner Burke

Margarete Fisher for funding for tree protections.

Ailanthus bio-controls work at Laurel Hill and Blake Lane Park funded by the Forest Pest fund.

Commissioner Beaty

During November/December, about two dozen trees were planted at Blake Lane Park with the help of volunteers. The volunteers not only are learning to plant trees with great skill but are also removing invasive vines from existing native trees and shrubs that would otherwise succumb to the damages caused by those vines. Shortly, the Park Authority will be removing the Tree of Heaven, pervasive within this park, and when that is completed, the onsite IMA site manager, Jennifer Prades, can begin planting more trees in those areas with the volunteers. The volunteers include a six-year-old boy intent on re-foresting the park. I'm enriched working with these volunteers.

The "rescue garden" planted by volunteers at the Providence Community Center is doing well. Supervisor Palchik has encouraged us to continue to expand our plantings in the Spring. It is maturing well in just one season—planted nearly Spring, 2021—and should start the blooming season early with native Spice Bushes - *Lindera benzoin*.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

0858pm