

# **Fairfax County Tree Commission**

## Meeting Minutes

1/17/2019 Room 122 Herrity Building

### **Opening**

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on 1/17/2019 in 122 Herrity by Chairman Cathy Ledec.

### **Present**

Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Catherine Ledec Mt. Vernon District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Brian Keightley, Incoming Director, UFMD  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD  
Joan Allen, Urban Forester III, UFMD Liaison

### **Absent**

Monica Billger, At Large  
Jessica Bowser, Lee District  
Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Vacant Seat, Providence District  
Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

### **Tree Commission Chair Election:**

Jerry Peters motioned to vote for the Tree Commission Chair. There was a unanimous vote for Cathy Ledec, including a vote by proxy by Jessica Bowser. Cathy Ledec presided over the remaining of the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Robert Vickers motioned to accept the Minutes for the November meeting, which were unanimously approved.

### **Z-MOD Tree Commission Charter Revisions:**

Fairfax County is updating and streamlining its Zoning Ordinance in a process dubbed Z-MOD. Article 19 of the Ordinance is the Tree Commission Charter. Suggestions for updating the Charter by changing the Commission's name to Urban Forest Commission and expanding its scope to include natural vegetation in addition to trees were discussed. Commissioners were asked to discuss the name change with their appointing supervisors and agencies.

### **Planning for Springfest:**

Jean Kadet registered the Tree Commission for a display area at Springfest. Supplies needed for the event include display, activities, and brochures. UFMD staff will procure a new display for the Tree Commission.

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

Hugh Whitehead brought letters and certificates for Robert Vickers to sign. A dry run of the award ceremony will take place on 1/18/19 at the Board Auditorium. Awards will be presented to awardees on 1/25/19 at 10:00 A.M. at the Board Auditorium.

### **UFMD Report**

Brian Keightley is adjusting to his current position. An annual review of development projects showed UFMD reviewed 929 Infill project, half of which are in the Dranesville district. Currently, there's an effort to modify the language in Chapter 122, the Tree Conservation ordinance, to change the penalties for violations from criminal to civil. If enacted penalties can occur per tree and not per incident. The Tree Action Plan is still under review by Supervisor Gross. Brian Keightley will follow up with her office soon.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Jeanne Kadet is currently working with UFMD staff to update the Tree Basics publication. There is a goal to have it the edits completed and print the new publication in time for Springfest. A new bill to limit the timeline for fall cankerworm spraying under § 15.2-2403 Powers of service districts. Jerry Peters made a motion for the Tree Commission to make a position to oppose the house bill. The commission decided to table the matter and may hear from Forest Pest staff to present their management programs to the commission. Jeanne Kadet will be representing the Tree Commission at the upcoming Plant NoVA natives 3<sup>rd</sup> Partnership Meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Jim McGlone informed the commission of house bills that would list the honeybee as the official state pollinator for Virginia. There is also another bill that would use tree conservation for water quality goals. The Virginia Association of Forest Health Professionals Conference will be taking place at Virginia Tech on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Peters shared that Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is holding their seedling sale.

Rick Healy shared that that EQAC held their annual public meeting in January. There was 15 attended.

Cathy Ledec attended the Faith Alliance Workshop. She would like the Tree Commission to be represented at next year's meeting.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m. by Chairman Cathy Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on February 21, 2019, in Herrity 122.

Minutes submitted by: Joan Martinez Allen, Urban Forester III UFMD