

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2020- Room 232-Government Center Complex (GCC)

Members Present

Catherine Ledec, Chair, Mt. Vernon District
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Laura Beaty, Providence District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Brenda Frank VA Cooperative Extension
John Burke, Park Authority
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District

Members Absent

Monica Billger, At-Large
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Vacant Seat, Springfield District

Staff Present

Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD
Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD

General Public/Guests

George Ledec

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on January 16, 2020- in suite 232 of the GCC by Chair Ledec.

Linda offered to be timekeeper.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ledec presented the revised December minutes for review including edits noted by Vice-Chair McGlone. Vice-Chair McGlone motioned for approval of the revised minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Healy. All were in favor. Motion carried for approval of the December 2019 minutes.

Briefing on Tree planting research

UFMD staff gave a presentation on efforts to date towards the Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter Action (Feb. 2019)-recommending to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) low and no cost tree planting options along with public and private partnerships that can assist residents in planting additional trees that will increase existing tree canopy. Brian spoke about follow-up efforts of the conceptual work plan presented to the BOS Environmental Committee in October 2019 and results of the tree planting survey. A community participation “charrette”, with a facilitation consultant, planned for March with the Community of Practice and Tree Commissioners, was explained. Background information and available resources identified by the UFMD staff was shown. UFMD staff also mentioned currently working out contract details to update tree canopy and land use cover maps in 2020. A question about i-Tree Ecosystem Analysis-Fairfax County 2017-Urban Forest Effects and Values was referred to the website link (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/ffc_ounty_ecoreport_1.pdf) i-Tree plot soil data collections with University of Maryland and Forest Pest branch mentioned. A discussion about number of participants for the “charrette”, list of invitees, and logistics entailed. The Joint Environmental Task Force (JET)-(<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/fairfax-countys-joint-environmental-task-force-seeks-members>); Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)-[three levels of community outreach-1)Energy & Climate Task Force (40-member core team); 2)Focus Groups (8-12 member groups from each Supervisor District); 3)Community; <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/cecap>] were also discussed. Tree Commission to report back to BOS charge with recommendations/report in June 2020.

Briefing on Tree Action Plan (TAP)

Chair Ledec gave background update. A discussion on BOS talking points and next steps for approval process was discussed. Commissioners Frank, Beaty, Kadet and Chair Ledec volunteered to organize a sub-committee meeting to refine talking points to take to District Supervisors.

Edits to the Tree Commission Charter

Vice-Chair McGlone gave background update from last meeting about change in location and language of current Tree Commission Charter. Language amendments were requested and discussed. The draft Fairfax County Natural Landscaping Policy on County Property next steps was also discussed.

A motion was made to by Vice-Chair McGlone to adopt the revised Tree Commission Charter language, proposed by Commissioner Healy, including removing item 2B and recommended that the Tree Commission Charter be moved to Chapter 122-Tree Conservation Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Healy. All were in favor. **Motion carried for approval.**

Other Business

- Vice-Chair McGlone announced Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) accepting orders for 2020 Seedling Sale on 2/4/2020. Meeting on January 20 to determine locations to plant any resulting surplus materials.
- Commissioner Peters distributed newsletter Conservation Currents.
- Chair Ledec suggested reconvening Legislative sub-committee for April or May 2020 to be pro-active in identifying possible legislation to recommend to BOS next year.

Commissioner Activities and Comments on e-reports

See e-reports.

Commissioner Frank reported on McLean Trees Foundation leading efforts to coordinate an Environmental Expo in the Fall 2020. Also mentioned the Neighborhood Tree Program where residential property owners can apply for a tree to be planted in the front yard.

Also discussed lobbying efforts of NVSWCD to increase Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) funding.

Commissioner Holland reported promoting tree planting and outreach to 30+ “Friends of” groups and possibly setting up a new Federation to group all.

Vice-Chair McGlone reported on Burke Conservancy to plant trees and shrubs and Town of Herndon to plant shrubs along the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD) trail and which also serves as an electric power transmission route.

Virginia State Department of Forestry (VADOF) staff to meet with the Fairfax County Park Authority-Natural Resource Management staff to discuss the prescribed burn program which is recognized as one of the best in the State and Country.

Chair Ledec requested support to reissue letter concerning position on solar panel for parking lots to send to BOS with a copy to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and Fairfax County Parks Authority (FCPA). Reminder about interior parking lot ordinance language was mentioned. Commissioner Frank motioned to amend the letter to include solar panels in parking lots position. Seconded by Commissioner Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kadet offered update on Springfest and requested to save the date for a volunteer opportunity on Saturday, April 25th.

Commissioner Burke has been meeting with FCPA staff among others to summarize the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)

Annual Report on the Environment recommendations and will have more to report in future meetings.

Commissioner Beaty discussed issue of over mulching problem in the Providence District. Discussion on complaint driven system through Code Compliance-Community Complaint form is available online. (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fido/complaints/comp_detail.aspx?catid=3&probcode=2)

UFMD Report

Brian discussed the following in his report:

- photos of solar panels installed at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge parking lot in Laurel, Maryland will be sent via email.
- Forest Pest Branch report presentation to BOS programmed for March 10th.
- Tree Planting Charrette programmed for March 12th.
- attended the 100 person Chesapeake Urban Tree Canopy Summit with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on January 14 & 15, 2020, at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge with over 11 planning partners within the Chesapeake Bay watershed featuring speakers such as Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Ph. D. who discussed the public health benefits of urban trees. Other topics included resource sharing on connecting tree canopy and public health and addressing issues of tree inequity in urban areas.
- McLean Task Force working with redevelopment issue with proposed landscape amenity panels (LAP) resulting in a 6' width LAP that must provide below ground adequate soil volumes.
- Handed out information about evaluating a Tree Conservation Ordinance. Proposing to work with one section at each meeting.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by Chair Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30, Thursday, February 20 in the Government Center Complex (GCC) **Room 232.**

Appendix I
Fairfax County Tree Commission e-Reports
January 2020

Monica Billger At Large	<i>No report</i>
Jeanne Kadet Braddock District	<p>1. I contacted Clean Fairfax, and learned that they are no longer in charge of coordinating Springfest. The coordinator said “Parks is taking the lead for all of SpringFest this year. I would check with them on what their plan is for exhibitors. They have all the contact info for you and all the other exhibitors and vendors so I would imagine that they will be reaching out to everyone very soon!” I’ve asked for contact information and will follow up with the new lead to request that we have a good table location.</p> <p>2. I participated in a meeting with 30 Oaks Cluster residents in Burke. They are working on initiating a green team to plant more native trees and other native vegetation. I talked about the Tree Commission and useful links to find tree related information, as well as handing out Tree Basics booklets.</p> <p>3. I have an appointment to meet with my new supervisor, James Walkinshaw, on January 23.</p>
Robert Vickers Dranesville District	<i>No report</i>
Dragan Mocilovic Hunter Mill District	<i>No report</i>
Jessica Bowser Lee District	<i>No report</i>
Catherine C. Ledec (Chair) Mount Vernon District	<i>No report</i>
Laura Beaty Providence	<i>No report</i>
<i>Vacant</i> Springfield District	<i>No report</i>
Karen Campblin Sully District	<i>No report</i>
Kevin Holland Mason District	<i>No report</i>
Jim McGlone (Vice-Chair)	Virginia Department of Forestry has just released its State of the Forest Report. This year it is on-line format. Small pictures below text are icons with links to more in-depth

VA Department of Forestry	stories. http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/_sof/SOF-2019_pub.pdf
Richard (Rick) Healy EQAC	<i>No report</i>
<i>Vacant</i> Fairfax County Park Authority	<i>No report</i>
Jerry Peters NWSWCD	<i>No report</i>
Brenda Frank Virginia Cooperative Extension	<i>No report</i>