

Fairfax County Tree Commission
Electronic Meeting Format
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022
Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936
Participant Access Code 224765

Call to Order

Chair Speas called the January meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. on January 20th, 2022, 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 Vickers, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes

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PRESENT:

Cindy Speas, Chair, At-Large-Falls Church, VA
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA
Laura Beaty, Providence District-Fairfax, VA
Jessica Bowser, Lee District-Kingstown, VA
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority-Arlington, VA
Karen Campblin, Sully District, Fairfax, VA
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council-Annandale, VA
Kevin Holland, Mason District-Falls Church, VA
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District-Annandale, VA
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District-Vienna, VA
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District-Great Falls, VA
Cory Suter, Springfield District-Fairfax, VA
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District-Great Falls, VA

ABSENT:

Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension
Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District

STAFF:

Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division
Tiffany Gregory, Urban Forest Management Division
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forest Management Division

GUESTS:

None

Public Comment:

None

Approval of December Minutes

Chair Speas asked for any changes/edits for December 2021 minutes.
Commissioners Vickers, Leslie & Chair Speas to forward edits to Staff.

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Vice Chair McGlone moves to approve December meeting minutes with edits, Commissioner Leslie seconds, no opposition, motion carries.

FCPA Natural Resources Branch Annual Report 2021: John Burke

Commissioner Burke presents the Fairfax County Park Authority's Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP).

Awards Update #3 Friends of Trees: Commissioners Kadet & Beaty

Discussion on changing the language for the nomination categories to include Individual volunteer, Non-profit Groups, For Profit Companies, and Developer/Builder/Project Arborist/Landscape architect.

Changes offered.

- Section #4 title to take out the 'or's' except to put 'and/or' at the end.
- Section #4 – various grammar edits
- Section #4 – agreed to strike “including long term maintenance plans”

Commission Kadet moves to approve the new Friends of Trees Awards version (See Attachment 1) with suggestions and edits offered in the discussion. Commissioner Peters seconds motion. None opposed, motion carries.

Discussion to create a 'task force' to continue the work for the Friends of Trees program (i.e., forms, pamphlets, etc.). Commissioner Kadet and Commissioner Beaty will continue the work, with Chair Speas volunteering to also assist.

CECAP & Follow Up: Chair Speas

In its Annual Report, the Tree Commission indicated to the Board of Supervisors that it would be forwarding recommendations on how to prioritize Strategy #12 (Natural Resources) to the Office of Environment and Energy Coordination (OEEC) which is working on an implementation plan. On this subject, staff has invited OEEC to give the Tree Commission an update on that timeline at the February meeting. Commissioners will shortly receive a survey to prioritize all suggested CECAP tree actions.

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Unfinished Business

On February 5, 2021, a letter agreeing to move the Tree Commission Charter from Article 19 to Chapter 122 was voted on, approved and sent to the Board of Supervisors. Attached to the letter was a proposal for re-writing the Charter. Commissioner Speas asks Commissioner Peters and Commissioner Healy to continue to accept comments/suggestions.

Commissioners will continue discussion on the Charter at the February meeting.

Directors Update-Brian Keightley

Infill Land Development Improvements: preserving large trees on lots that are less than a quarter acre is a challenge but can be done. Approximately 7,000 s.f. lots are where large tree preservation is nearly impossible. Brian has been tasked with working on things that can be done administratively regarding proposal of off-site trees and development. The BOS can make changes to the County Code or Public Facilities Manual within the scope of state enabling legislation.

FYI to the Tree Commissioners that all UFMD staff are 24/7 Emergency Service Personnel. UFMD Staff responds to weather emergency events-storms, snow, etc.

2022 General Assembly Bills: House Bill 311 asks state agencies to prioritize the use of native plant species on state properties.

EQAC Report: Tree Commission recommendations from September 2 and in our Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors were embedded in the EQAC report to the Board.

Spring Community of Practice Meeting: February 9th 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Facilitated by a consultant via Zoom.

UFMD Awards: Employee of the Year–Barbara Dias; UFMD Director’s Excellence Awards–Jack Baggett, Nick Drunasky, Christina Demariano, Tiffany Gregory, Rachel Habig-Myers.

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Announcements & Other Business

Commissioner Leslie: presents Tree Action Plan Community of Practice survey for preview.

Vice Chair McGlone: DOF allocations & Invasive Species Report

Chair Speas on behalf of Commissioner Ledec requested that Commissioners that who are working on the plant NOVA Natives steering committee for the purposes of supporting the Plant NOVA tree be allowed to identify as Fairfax County tree Commissioners, but remind others that they do not speak on behalf of the Tree Commission. Discussion followed.

Adjournment

8:55 p.m.

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Attachment 1:

MOTION: Revised Friends of Trees Awards language

A Friends of Trees Award recognizes efforts made for **exceptional, outstanding, and innovative** conservation-based tree actions in Fairfax County that do one or more of the following:

- a. Protect and preserve existing trees and associated habitats
- b. Increase Fairfax County's tree canopy and their related natural habitats
- c. Educate and inspire people to plant more trees and properly maintain them, as well as to convey an understanding of the importance and benefits of trees.

Nominations Categories:

1. Individual volunteer

e.g. an individual who has provided extraordinary unpaid leadership in conceiving and implementing a tree-related project (see a, b, or c above).

2. Non-profit group or business

e.g. Scouts or other youth groups or clubs, "Friends of" groups, faith community properties, HOAs and Citizens' Associations, county agencies and/or facilities.

3. For-profit company

e.g. corporations or other businesses, HOA management companies, commercial nurseries, landscaping services, office park and property managers.

In the above categories 1-3, a nominee must have demonstrated outstanding, innovative, and exceptional conservation-based actions to preserve trees, to plant trees, to have demonstrated outstanding property maintenance best practices, and/or to engage in a uniquely designed educational program about the importance and benefits of trees. The projects must utilize natural landscaping principles based on using regionally appropriate native species. **NOTE:** priority shall be given to projects that 1) preserve native plant communities, remove non-native, invasive species, and use appropriate pruning and mulching practices and/or 2) that are actualized in underserved communities.

4. Developer, builder, project arborist, and/or landscape architect

A nominee must have demonstrated before, during, and after a project an extraordinary commitment to conservation-based actions to preserve and plant trees above and beyond Fairfax County development requirements. The project design must show preservation of the maximum

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number of suitable trees possible, given the existing resources and site constraints. During construction, the project must demonstrate a commitment to installing, maintaining and honoring of tree protective devices to achieve the planned preservation, as well as replacing trees that were unavoidably harmed or destroyed due to development. After implementation, design and planning must include a commitment to tree conservation by choosing the most suitable species based on post-development conditions and providing for the long-term survival of all preserved and planted trees through best practices, ~~including long term maintenance plans~~. **NOTE:** priority shall be given to plans that 1) use regionally appropriate native species and utilize natural landscaping principles, and/or 2) design to maximize energy conservation opportunities, and/or to provide specific air and/or water quality or wildlife benefits.

Calendar:

Nominations will be solicited year-round, with **deadline COB July 1**, followed by Tree Commission voting in the fall. A nominee whose project is exemplary, but who does not win a Friends of Trees Award for exceptional, outstanding, and innovative conservation-based tree actions, may be eligible for a recognition certificate.

End of Motion