

# **Fairfax County Tree Commission**

## Meeting Minutes

2/24/2019 Room 122 Herrity Building

### **Call to Order**

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on 2/24/2019 in 122 Herrity by Chairman Catherine Ledec.

### **Present**

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  
Jessica Bowser, Lee District  
Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Monica Billger, At Large  
Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD  
Jack Baggett, Urban Forester II, Note taker

### **Absent**

Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Vacant Seat, Providence District  
Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

### **Guests Present**

Donna Murphy, Virginia Native Plant Society  
Laura Beatty, Virginia Native Plant Society

### **Approval of Minutes**

Robert Vickers motioned to accept the minutes for the January meeting as amended.  
Approved.

### **Tree Commission Administrative Procedures**

Chairman Ledec talked about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Public Records Act with its implications on electronic messaging. If there are communications

of three or more commissioners via electronic means, that constitutes a public meeting. Commissioners must follow the rules as set out in these policies. Tree Commissioners are directed to send all electronic communication concerning Tree Commission business to Brian, who will then distribute the communications to the Commissioners. Commissioners are encourage the read the documents outlining the policy in the Commissioners' notebook.

Commissioner Ledec is implementing a new Commissioner Reports procedure. Commissioners must submit their Commissioner Reports in writing to Brian a week before the tree commission meeting.

Commissioner Ledec proposes a new meeting agenda item about public comments. This will allow members of the public to formally address the tree commission and have their comments in the public record. This item will be after the previous month's agenda minutes item.

The commission had a discussion of renaming the Tree Commission. Proposed names included Urban Forestry Commission and Community Forestry Commission.

*Commissioner McGlone made a motion, and it was seconded, for the Tree Commission to develop a policy so that the general public can formally be heard at Tree Commission meetings. Individuals will have three minutes and groups five minutes. **Motion passed***

Commissioner Ledec asked that commissioners submit any new agenda items to her and/or Brian at least one week before the meeting.

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

Commissioner Healy discussed some of the technical components of revising the Zoning Ordinance. Jim McGlone passed out suggested revisions and discussion of his edits ensued. Commissioner Peters reminded commissioners to not get caught up in minor edits and focus of the larger picture. There was discussion on alternatives to the Urban Forest name. Commissioner Healy will incorporate Commissioner McGlone's suggested edits into the charter.

*Commissioner Vickers made a motion, and it was seconded, to approve the language of the purpose or the revisions as amended by Commissioner McGlone. **Motion passed***

#### **Board Matter from February 5 BOS meeting**

Brian discussed a BOS directive for the Tree Commission to review low cost and no cost options to assist residents in planting trees and the requirement that Tree Commission to provide an annual report send an annual report back to the BOS. Commissioner Ledec explored a concern from Supervisor Storck that there is no central reporting database of

all tree planting initiatives in the in the county. Commissioner Ledec mentioned that the Tree Action Plan does address this concern. There are issues with distributing county funds to individuals. Chairman Ledec urged commissioners to report back to the Tree Commission on tree planting initiatives in their supervisor district.

### **Celebrated Trees**

Commissioner Vickers expressed concerns that there needs to be a better map on the Tree Commission website of Fairfax County trees that are in the Virginia Big Tree Registry. Brian said he will look into the issue with staff to see if staff resources can be used to do this, and report back to Commissioner Vickers.

### **Report on 2019 Legislative Session**

Brian gave a brief report of what passed and did not passed at the Virginia Legislature.

Bill to allow the county and developers to discuss proffers before approval-passed.

Bill to improve shorelines with plantings using Sea Pace loans-passed

Bill to allow residential automatic misting systems- tabled

Bill to create Wildlife Corridor Action Plan- tabled

Bill that effects trees in development process (water quality)- tabled

Bill to restrict timing of pesticides for fall cankerworm - failed

Bill to ban chlorpyrifos – tabled

### **UFMD Report**

Brian also mentioned that the UFMD website is being updated.

Nothing much has moved with Z-mod

PFM phase 2-UFMD should be done with this by April-May.

Still working in getting the Tree Action Plan pushed through.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Kadet said that the Woodlark Road project has been stopped but has been appealed.

Commissioner Peters reminded Commissioners to get their seedling orders in.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m. by Chairman Catherine Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on March 21, 2018, in Herrity 122.