

Fairfax County Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine Ledec, (Chair) Mt. Vernon District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District
Jim McGlone, Virginia Dept of Forestry

MEMBERS ABSENT: Monica Billger, At-Large
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Vacant, Providence District

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Keightley, Director UFMD-DPWES
Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison-DPWES
Hugh Whitehead, UFMD-DPWES
Charles Smith, Stormwater Planning-DPWES

GUESTS: Laura Beaty
Kimberly D. Schauer
Tim Hackman-FCPA Board

Call to Order

Chair C. Ledec called the monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 7:30 pm on 4/18/19 in Room 122 at the Herrity Building. A change in the agenda was proposed to allow the presentation on Natural Landscaping Comp Plan Amendment to go first.

Natural Landscaping at County Facilities Presentation

Guest speakers Hugh Whitehead and Charles Smith explained efforts to draft Policy Plan Amendment Text for Natural Landscaping-Public Facilities to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition. A similar presentation was made to the FC Planning Commission. An Interagency Stakeholders meeting was also held on April 8th. Several cost-effective County retrofit projects were highlighted using Natural Landscape practices such as Oakton Library Bioretention Facility coordinated by the late John Palmer-SWPD in partnership with Claudia West (Northcreek Nurseries) who developed the planting plan maintained by the Foxmill Garden Club. Other awarded projects were mentioned as well as Stingfellow Park and Ride, and the National Wildlife Federation Headquarters in

Reston. The history of the County's Natural Landscape Policy, which was endorsed and adopted by the BOS, was also explained. The Fairfax County Natural Landscape Manual, (see:<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/natural-landscaping-manual.pdf>)

was mentioned as a good guide with checklists. At the October 2, 2018, Board of Supervisors-Environmental Committee (BOSEC) meeting, Natural Landscape was discussed and next steps recommended. Revised Policy Plan Amendment text for Natural Landscaping-Public Facilities will to be presented to the Planning Commission next week. A discussion about coordinating with FC Public Schools health benefits correlation with natural landscapes, HOA and RPA issue and requirements entailed. A task force between BOS and FCPS being developed was mentioned.

A discussion of the contractors that provide services and contract registry (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cregister/>) for public projects was mentioned. The goal is to build more sustainable landscapes and showcase successfully completed natural landscape projects.

Staff will keep Tree Commissioners updated on status and when public hearings are announced.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner R. Vickers to approve the amended February minutes, this was seconded by Commissioner J. McGlone. All were in favor, this motion was approved.

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Commissioner R. Vickers, this was seconded by Commissioner G. Peters. All were in favor, this motion was approved.

Tree Preservation Ordinance Amendment update

Director B. Keightley reported on efforts to add civil penalties to Chapter 122 for the removal of trees prior to approval of grading plans. Discussion and questions about language entailed. Authorization to advertise amendment and public hearings scheduled. Motion made by Commissioner R. Vickers seconded by Commissioner J. Kadet to support amendment. One opposed. Motion made to draft a letter to FC Planning Commission/BOS made by Commissioner J. McGlone to support amendment. Seconded by Commissioner R. Vickers. All in favor and motion carried.

Final Draft of Public Comment written procedure presented

The revised public comment process follows up on the motions made at our February meeting and describes the process for public participation at the regular Tree Commission meetings. Comments were received and added. This will be posted on the TC website. A Motion was made to adopt the amended document made by Commissioner G. Peters, seconded by Commissioner K. Campblin. All were in favor, this motion was approved.

Final Draft of Survey questions document presented

The revised questionnaire is aimed at identifying and recommending low-cost and no-cost options along with public-private partnerships that can assist residents in planting trees to increase tree canopy. Comments received and added. Discussion on sourcing or providing

trees, covered under item #C. Staff to create final in Survey Monkey. Discussion of creating a file to track outcomes to report back to BOS. Information was provided to Commissioners on an opportunity for increased tree planting with a recent change to the Code of Virginia about local Stormwater appropriation to grant funds to an owner of private property or common interest community for stormwater management and erosion prevention on previous developed lands. Motion made by Chair C. Ledec to send final survey text to staff to set up as a test to send to Tree Commissioners before going live to public on Survey Monkey. All voted in favor, this motion was approved.

UFMD Report

Director B. Keightley mentioned the following in his report:

- Opportunity to move meetings to the Public Safety Building next door. Will confirm at future date.
- Websites including TC is being updated. Web team is starting with the TC website and met with Chair C. Ledec, Commissioner J. Kadet and staff (Mary Nelms, Internet Architect) and recommended to follow the EQAC website format.
- Joint BOS and School Board meeting with J. Reyes representing DPWES was recently held.
- Springfest 4/27/19, coordinating volunteers.
- Demonstration planting at Reston Association reveal on 5/2/2019, presentation made by UFMD staff-L. Barfield on the Reston Transit Station Area Guidelines by OCR. (See link <http://www.fcrcv.org/programs/download/RestonDG-Ch6-Nov2018.pd> for the Reston Specific Streetscape types). Discussion on maintenance and study comparing failure rates of larger caliper trees entailed. Invitation flyer to development community and Tree Commissioners sent.
- ZMod update-Chapter 3 in progress. Other chapters in pipeline over next two years.
- Met with Supervisor P. Gross about TAP 2.0 and R. Bartlett about next steps. Working on getting issues and addressed questions (powerpoint presentation) on the BOS-Environmental Committee (BOS-EC) agenda for a vote/recommendation to the BOS. Pending to inform Tree Commissioners when scheduled. June 18th is the next meeting of BOS-EC.
- UFIII position available being filled.
- All Infill Grading Plans now to be reviewed by UFMD. (an additional 300 plans) Statistics pending.
- Met with Maria Cortina-FC Planning Commission to understand issues.
- May 10th presentation at the Chesapeake Network Bay wide retreat on Urban Stormwater BMP-message that trees need to be installed correctly and maintained.

Other Business

Discussion on the Seneca Track tour-May 5 date @ 1:00pm update for big trees. Notice and invite to be sent. Space for 15 persons.

Discussion on State Delegate request for possible language for new legislation on private property.

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Commissioner J. Kadet thanked all volunteers for Springfest, UFMD provided a new display board for the event where trees will be given out to the public.

May 10th next Urban Forest Roundtable to be held at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on how to communicate the importance of trees. Discussion on the Spotted Lantern Fly entailed. A monitoring program to track *Ailanthus altissima* commonly known as Tree of Heaven, growing near transportation hubs. A known tree stressor but impacts agricultural products such as hops and grapes and drops much honeydew. April 30th workshop to educate people about this insect is scheduled.

Chair C. Ledec mentioned Solarize Fairfax-letter prepared to consider tree assessment sent in 2017. Requesting to update letter that proper tree assessments be included with upcoming assessment of County and School Buildings being considered for solar. Commissioner R. Vickers made motion to update letter. All voted in favor, this motion was approved.

Chair C. Ledec shared the exciting news of receiving the 2018 Fairfax County “Citizen of the Year” award by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm> and other civic-minded organizations. The award ceremony was said to be spectacular and efforts to improve other similar tree award ceremonies are in progress.

Commissioner Reports

See e-Reports dated April 18, 2019 was distributed.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Linda Barfield (updated 5-9-2019)