

# Fairfax County Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Bowser, Lee District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Monica Billger, At-Large  
Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District  
Vacant, Providence District

STAFF PRESENT: Nicholas Drunasky, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III

GUESTS: Kim Schauer, Fairfax County Park Authority/Tree  
Stewards

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:42pm

## **Urban Tree Canopy and i-Tree Eco Discussion**

There was a communication breakdown, so Rachel Griesmer-Zakhar was not able to present the 2017 i-tree eco findings at this meeting. It is anticipated that she will present at the June meeting. This led to an urban tree canopy study discussion from the Arlington County article.

## **Minutes**

Vice Chair McGlone determined that there were not enough members present to have a quorum, so it was not possible to vote on approval of the April meeting minutes.

## **Second Fairfax County Tree Commission Retreat Notes**

Chairman Vickers reported that the Draft Tree Commission Retreat Notes have been completed by staff for everyone to look over, which lists all of the UFMD staff in one place. He also felt it was a very useful meeting for all.

### **Report on Springfest**

Commissioner Kadet reported that Springfest was one of the best ones she attended. Many people came by Tree Commission (TC) booth and kids were engaged. She felt it worked well because they had a good location where people had to walk through and were also next to the VA Native Plant Society.

Chairman Vickers reported he had his display with plotted locations of state big trees in the county.

Vice Chair McGlone reported that the Proclamation went very well and that Cathy Smith was only politician from the county in attendance.

### **Effectively Organizing TC Website with Link to Big Trees Website**

Chairman Vickers would like someone from TC to work with Joan Allen to update the website that needs work. Chairman Vickers agreed to work with Joan to get things updated such as photos from Springfest, big tree list, land conservation awards, etc.

### **Tree Planting and Preservation Awards Update**

Commissioner Campblin reported that a small group met to discuss changes to form.

Nominations will be accepted throughout the year from October 1 – September 30.

Nothing exists on the Land Conservation Awards (LCA) website that separates the LCA from Tree Conservation Awards (TCA) Programs. Information is necessary to describe the purpose and intent of the program. This should be updated on both the TC as well as LCA websites.

### **Tree Owners Manual Publication Distribution**

Commissioner Kadet reported that Commissioner Holland would like to have some type of tree information manual to give to people when they purchase a home in the county.

Either the UFMD tree manual could be updated or the Forest Service Tree Owner's Manual could be used.

Vice Chair McGlone mentioned it could be printed at Government Center Print Shop and possibly collect the printing fee from relators. He also said that Plant NOVA Natives has gotten in with real estate agents, who give their book as a gift to clients purchasing a home.

### **Tree Action Plan**

The Commission discussed that the final draft will be sent to Supervisor Gross from James Patteson in June or July. Once she is in support, it will go to the Boards Environmental Committee who meets quarterly and then to the Board in October. This also allows time to contact partner agencies to discuss implementation.

**UFMD Report**

Hugh Whitehead reported that Forest Conservation is currently upgrading a vacant UFII position to a UFIII in an effort to create advancement opportunities for team leads. Forest Conservation is currently advertising a UFI position as well.

**Commissioner Reports**

Vice Chair McGlone, shared that VDOF hired Kinner Ingram, Urban Forestry Specialist who started in the Warrenton office on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Second item, he oversaw 36 acres of loblolly pine planted in Mason Neck to replace harvest pines as well as 6.5 acres of shortleaf pine has been planted in great falls.

Commissioner Healy, reported that EQAC weighed in, along with other groups on the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow for a reduction from 30% open space, due to pressure from homeowners and the development community. The Planning Commission deferred action on this modification for a reduction.

Chairman Vickers, shared that the state big tree registry website will be reduced from five to three trees of each species, as it becomes updated on a five year basis.

Commission Bowser, stated that Plant NOVA Natives is looking for volunteers to give small tours over Memorial Day weekend at Meadows Farms Nurseries.

Commissioner Campblin, had nothing to report.

Commissioner Kadet, reported that she was invited by a cluster at Burke Conservancy over their concern for leaving deadwood and downed trees in common HOA forested areas. They also have concerns on how to deal with invasive species. Vice Chair McGlone stated that removing any invasive species from these areas may require permission from the county since they may fall within Resource Protection Areas or Conservation Easements.

Vice Chair McGlone, shared that State Code .961 was amended, which allows a locality to set canopy requirement during development. This amendment now affords all jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay to develop a tree conservation ordinance regardless of size.

**Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm.