

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2019 Room 122 Herrity Building

Members Present

Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Catherine Ledec, Chair, Mt. Vernon District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Monica Billger, At Large

Members Absent

Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Staff Present

Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD
Nick Drunasky, Urban Forester III, UFMD

Guests

Laura Beaty

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on May 16, 2019 in 122 Herrity by Chairman Ledec.

Approval of Minutes

During discussion of the April minutes, Commissioner Vickers questioned where we are at issuing the letter regarding the process of civil penalties for removal of trees, prior to approval of grading plans in Chapter 122 of the ordinance. This led to a long discussion regarding the process of submitting the letter to the Board.

Commissioner Vickers inquired on the status of the TAP Approval. Brian stated it ultimately needs to go back to the Environmental Committee to get on their agenda.

Commissioner Vickers motioned to approve the April 2019 minutes as they stand, seconded by Commissioner Holland.

Fairfax County's Tree Preservation and Planting Fund

Hugh Whitehead gave the presentation he gave to the Board's Environmental Committee in February on the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund, established in 2005. He summarized how the fund had been used to plant trees through volunteers on both county and public-school property.

Friends of Trees Awards

It was determined and agreed by all that June 15th would be the deadline for Friends of Trees Award nominations. The flier will be used, pending a few minor edits.

UFMD Report

Brian discussed the following in his report:

- He attended the 9th Annual Chesapeake Bay Network Retreat and presented on his experiences with trees and stormwater BMP's as part of a three-member panel.
- Requests have gone out to UFMD Staff to collect information for annual EQAC report with a June deadline.
- Staff has attended Council Tree and Landscape Appraisal as well as Tree Risk Assessment Qualification trainings.
- Linda Barfield has volunteered to be staff liaison for a one-year term.
- Z-MOD is looking at new zoning categories and the maximum building size and intensity of development allowed in each use.
- Test survey monkey and try to break to get all kinks worked out.
- Fairfax County won three Bubba Awards, one of which involved best reforestation for a stream restoration project.
- Website update is going well, which will allow updates on agenda, minutes and links for Tree Commission.
- UFMD plans to have an open house of our expanded office space soon.
- Natural Landscaping Committee reporting back to Planning Commission, but Brian is concerned how the initiative will be funded.

Other Business

Commissioner McGlone stated that the tree planting target in Virginia's Draft Phase III Watershed Implementation plan is not achievable. The goal proposes million trees planted/year in Virginia to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. It was unclear to Commissioner McGlone where this target came from.

Commissioner Reports

E-reports were distributed, a brief explanation by each reporting Commissioner was made.

Commissioner Vickers discussed the article he brought in from the Sun Gazette regarding tree conservation in the RPA.

Commissioner Holland reported on the lightning struck tulip tree at Hidden Oaks Nature Center that will be chain saw carved into woodland animals.

- October 19th will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hidden Oaks with activities all day, including planting two native trees.
- Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience was hosted in mid-May that educated 650 7th graders on various aspects of the watershed.
- Kevin was awarded by the Volunteer Fairfax Association a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Commissioner McGlone updated Penny Gross at candidate forum in mid-May that stormwater management fund could be opportunity to plant trees on private property.

- Two teams from Northern Virginia have advanced to Envirothon State Competition.

Commissioner Kadet mentioned Springfest will be the 4th Saturday of April next year and this year's Springfest went well with lots of people stopping by, playing quiz wheel and taking a tree to plant.

Chair Ledec referenced the new state champion frosted hawthorn in her report at Montebello Condominium HOA.

- Laura Beaty was introduced and is scheduled to be approved by the Board of Supervisors as the Providence District Tree Commissioner.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m. by Chairman Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on June 20, 2019, in the Herrity building, room 122.