

Fairfax County Tree Commission
Electronic Meeting Format
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 20th, 2021
Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936
Participant Access Code 224765

Call to Order

Chairwoman Ledec called the monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 2:00 p.m. on May 20th, 2021 via Electronic Meeting.

From the Chairman:

To conduct this meeting wholly electronically and to effectuate both the emergency procedures authorized by 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 of 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, 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.

Commissioner Beaty seconds motion, all in favor, motion carries.

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Need for an Electronic Meeting

Second, having established that each member's voice may be heard by every other member, we must next establish the nature of the emergency that compels these emergency procedures, the fact that we are meeting electronically, what type of electronic communication is being used, and how we have arranged for public access to this meeting.

Therefore, I move that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the Fairfax County Tree Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the Fairfax County Tree Commission and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. I further move that this the Fairfax County Tree Commission may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line, and that the public may access this meeting by calling 1-888-270-9936 Conference Code: 224765. It is so moved.

Commissioner Leslie seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Need to dispense with FOIA's Usual Procedures to Assure Continuity in Government/Continue Operations

Finally, it is next required that all of the matters addressed on today's agenda must address the Emergency itself, are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Fairfax County Tree Commission] lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. It is so moved.

Commissioner Holland seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

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PRESENT:

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District – Alexandria, VA
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District, Vienna, VA
Jessica Bowser, Lee District, Alexandria, VA
Kevin Holland, Mason District, Falls Church, VA
Karen Campblin, Sully District, Fairfax, VA
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council – Annandale, VA
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, VA
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District, Great Falls, VA
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension, Mclean, VA
Laura Beaty, Providence District, Fairfax, VA

ABSENT:

Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District- Annandale, VA
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District - Great Falls, VA – check the record
Cory Suter, Springfield District, Fairfax, VA

OTHERS:

Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division – Fairfax Station, VA
Tiffany Thrasher, Urban Forest Management Division -Culpeper, VA

GUESTS:

Carol Turner, Mason District Council, Park Advocate for Justice Park & First
Christian Church
Kathleen Brown, President of Ravenwood Citizens Association
Cindy Speas, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Brian Land, Citizen, Town of Vienna

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Public Comment:

Carol Turner-Comments on Justice HS & Justice Park

Kathleen Brown-Comments on Justice HS & Justice Park

Brian Land-Commissioned by the Mayor of the Town of Vienna to put together a report for ways the town can do better with tree preservation and urban tree canopy. Attending today's meeting to listen in

Cindy Speas-Comments on support from Faith Alliance for Climate Change for Justice HS & Justice Park

Approval of April Minutes

Discussion regarding May meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner McGlone, Commissioner Leslie seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Preparation of Annual Report (Charter requirement, Tree Action Plan requirement)

Charter requires the Tree Commission to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors every year. Review of report outline that will sum up all of the items that need to be reported on. Annual Report will include Green Initiatives, Tree Action Plan, and results/summary of the Community of Practice meeting.

Green Initiatives 5a-Letter Report

Expectation that the tree commission will give a one-page annual update to the BOS progress report on its green initiative efforts (i.e., Community of Practice meeting, tree plantings, etc.).

Community of Practice-Report Out and Discussion)

Commissioners give feedback and summary about the Community of Practice meeting.

Commissioner Burke-Good opportunity to hear different perspective & suggested for more time in the breakout groups in the future.

Chairwoman Ledec-Everyone was enthusiastic & meeting was positively received.

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Letter of Support for RPA Planting Requirement Amendments Discussion

2019-Tree Commission was presented the potential amendments for RPA planting requirements in Chapter 118 and the PFM.

Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendments to the BOS. The Tree Commission worked with EQAC to prepare a joint letter in support of the proposed RPA amendments to forward to the BOS. EQAC has approved the drafted letter and is waiting for feedback from the Tree Commission. EQAC will send joint letter to the BOS.

Commissioners all in favor of approval of the letter as edited, motion carries.

UFMD Directors Report-Brian Keightley

BOS going back to in-person meetings in June. Change guidance from the Virginia General Assembly just came in and will need to be evaluated.

Casey Trees Pilot Project (Route 1 Corridor)-tress plantings on private properties with low/no canopy, plan to plant a total of 150 trees. Pilot also includes an 'Outreach' portion.

Virginia Tech Soil Study-approved and will be beginning soon.

Retirement of Craig Herwig-June 4.

Commissioner Activities & Comments on E-Reports

Commissioner McGlone-VDOF received 6,000 seedlings & 1,500 went to Fairfax County Facilities Management Dept. to plant on County owned property throughout the County. Reminder about OneFairfax Policy document.

Commissioner Beaty-Replanting rescue plants efforts.

Commissioner Burke-Restarting program that will help identify and manage site with invasive species. VA Trees for Clean Water grant for restoration tree plan at Frying Pan Farm Park. 500 of the 1,500 seedlings that was given to Fairfax County from VDOF have been planted in park land.

Chairwoman Ledec-Discussion to revert back to evening in person meetings in June. Asking for preference for a scheduled time for the meetings that occur every

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third Thursday of the month. Majority of the group preference was for 7pm meeting start.

Brian Keightley-Suffragette Memorial planting and dedication.

Announcements

Adjournment

403pm