

# **Fairfax County Tree Commission**

## Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2019 Room 122 Herrity Building

### **Members Present**

Catherine Ledec, Chair, Mt. Vernon District  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District  
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Laura Beaty, Providence District  
Monica Billger, At Large  
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District

### **Members Absent**

Jessica Bowser, Lee District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

### **Staff Present**

Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD  
Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

### **Guests**

Mary Nelms, DPWES Webmaster  
Sharon Williams, Planning and Zoning

### **Call to Order**

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on June 20, 2019 in Suite 122 of the Herrity bldg. by Chair Ledec.

Brian Keightley presented the official Tree Commission Roster to submit to the Clerk of Board of Supervisors after its been checked by each Commissioner for correct email and contact information.

## **Public Comment:**

None.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Ledec presented the May minutes for review.

Commissioner Vickers motioned to approve the May 2019 minutes, this was seconded by Commissioner Campblin which was approved unanimously.

Chair Ledec introduced Laura Beaty as the new Tree commissioner representing the Providence District.

## **Tree Commission Website Refresh**

Mary Nelms, DPWES Web Content and Strategy Manager Presented the revised Tree Commission website entitled “Tree Commission Website Refresh” that revealed the redesigned website showing how content can be accessed to obtain information related to the Tree Commission.

## **Fairfax County Zoning Process 101**

Sharon Williams presented how the Fairfax County zoning and planning land-use process works. The presentation explained the planning and development procedures used in guiding the decision-making process of enabling land development, comprehensive planning, rezoning applications and public hearings with Zoning, the Planning Commission and the Board. Examples of the zoning application submittal process included the role of the County staff coordinator, re-zonings, variances, and special exceptions. A discussion ensued regarding the process of notifying the public in reference to active land-use zoning cases. “The communication gap” of notifying the public was a topic of concern that was discussed.

## **Friends of Trees Awards**

The 2019 Friends of Trees Award Nomination Forms was handed out for the commissioners to review and vote on.

Three nominations were submitted for award consideration, based upon the projects and the stated criteria of volunteering time and effort to preserve, protect or plant trees.

The Nominations:

1. Montebello Condominium Association, nominated by Chair Cathy Ledec

A motion was approved to award Montebello Condominiums a Friends of Trees Award.

2. Fairfax County Public Schools and staff, nominated by Hugh Whitehead  
A motion was approved to award Riverside Elementary, Belvedere Elementary, Mark Moseley (Dogwood Elementary), Michele Sullivan (Mantua Elementary), and Beth Brickhouse (Greenbriar East Elementary) a Friends of Trees Award.
3. Dead Run Stream Restoration, nominated by Commissioner Vickers  
A motion was approved to award the citizen volunteers of the Mclean Citizens Association a Friends of Trees Award.

### **UFMD Report**

Brian Keightley discussed the following in his report:

- Metropolitan Council of Governments initiatives;
  1. A regional tree canopy report documenting tree canopy goals.
  2. Developing urban tree planting programs that would contribute to the MS4 Permit (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) programs as storm water quality control measures for meeting performance standards of the permit.
- Arlington and Fairfax County Urban Forestry Directors sharing information on how their respective agency's function.
- Proposal to hire a soil consultant for implementing standards on engineered soils for tree pit soils. Currently working with VA Tech & Luck Stone on helping with this project.
- Tree Action Plan will be going to the Environmental Committee in October.
- Natural landscaping field tour this Saturday with citizens and tree commissioners.
- PFM Phase II revisions are moving forward.
- Three new employees started as Urban Forester I with UFMD.
- Pilot projects for tree planting using contractors.

### **Other Business**

Chair Ledec:

- Motion for tree commission support on civil penalties for removing trees during illegal land disturbing activities. A motion was supported for Chair Cathy Ledec to give public comment in support of the amendments to Chapter 122.
- Lorton Community Project Center proposing to save a 60" White Oak that County staff has agreed to try and save by incorporating specific tree preservation measures. The MOU with the FCPA and the BOS might also be renegotiated to include this.

Commissioner Campblin:

Sully District Land Use Group has expressed concern with disingenuous tree contactors working in the County. A proposal to enact state legislation for licensing tree contractors may help to control unscrupulous tree contractors.

**Commissioner Reports**

Chair Ledec - Tree Planting proposal for Carl Sandburg Middle School submitted, New State Champion Tree – MV District, 2019 M.V. District Environment Expo.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. by Chair Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on July 18, 2019, in the Herrity building, room 122.