

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2019- Room 122 Herrity Building

Members Present

Catherine Ledec, Chair, Mt. Vernon District
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Laura Beaty, Providence District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Monica Billger, At Large

Members Absent

Vacant Seat, Springfield District
Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District

Staff Present

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

Guests

Brenda Frank, resident and Master Gardener
Kristin Sinclair, Fairfax County Park Authority
John Friedman, Fairfax County Land Development Services
Jan Levitt, Fairfax County Land Development Services

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on September 19, 2019- in suite 122 of the Herrity Bldg. by Chair Ledec.

Commissioner Vickers offered to be timekeeper.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ledec presented the June and July minutes for review. Some edits were noted.

Commissioner Kadet motioned for approval of the June 2019 minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Vickers. All were in favor. Motion carried for approval of June 2019 minutes.

Commissioner Vickers motioned for approval of the July 2019 minutes. All were in favor. Motion carried for approval of July 2019 minutes.

Fairfax County Park Authority Annual Report

Kristin Sinclair, Ecologist III with Fairfax County Park Authority gave a presentation and overview of the FY2018 Annual Report & Strategic Plan Update.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/administrative/fy18-annual-report.pdf>

Briefing on potential changes to Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 118: Chesapeake Bay Ordinance

John Friedman, Senior Engineer with Land Development Services gave a presentation and overview of the proposed amendments. There was a discussion on the shrub planting densities.

December 2018 Tree Action Plan revisions

Chair Ledec and Brian Keightley gave a background description of history of the document creation process to date. After which a discussion occurred about what to do with the December 2018 draft document. A motion was made by Commissioner Vickers for the December 2018 version to be sent to the Board of Supervisors. Seconded. Discussion by Commissioner McGlone need to review text for consistency. Revised motion made for reference on page 4 to UFM plan which should be TAP for consistency. All were in favor of revised motion to endorse an amended December 5, 2018 version. Motion to endorse amended December 5, 2018 TAP version and move to BOS. All were in favor, motion carried. Motion made by Commissioner Peters to endorse memo to BOS. Question on name of TAP 2018. Agreed to amend to 2019. All were in favor, motion carried.

UFMD Report

Brian discussed the following in his report:

- Proposed zoning ordinance amendment for lot setback for curved lots. Discussion entailed.
- Tree Basics update available and a hit. Thanks to Commissioner Kadet for efforts to update. Spanish version revised. More English versions being printed also available on the Tree Commission website.
- UFMD website being updated.
- Fall for Fairfax-10/6 & 7-UFMD will have a booth and Tree Basics will be distributed.
- Oak decline discussed. Observed since early 1900's. Appears to be a correlation with weather. Eliminate oak wilt and sudden oak death from vocabulary unless pathogen or fungus detected. Encourage not to cut oaks down, may leaf out in Spring.
- Joint training with NPS-injection systems
- Hiring UF II vacancy
- Springfield Tree Commissioner position vacant
- BOS Legislative Committee-requested action from Tree Commission. Sub-committee meetings to figure a state legislative agenda discussed. Bring discussion back to full Tree Commission. Discussion about legislation to authorize better protection of trees on infill lots or cutting trees on private property and Virginia State code 15.2-961.1 that allows Fairfax County Tree Conservation Ordinance.

Motion made by Commissioner McGlone to form a Legislative sub-committee. A committee chair will be determined at the first meeting. Timeline discussed. Possible topics: Look at licensure of tree care companies; zoning setback and lot coverage; approve the TAP.

Other Business

Chair Ledec stated Tree Planting & Preservation Awards due end of September. Several nominations have been received by Hugh Whitehead.

City of Falls Church Tree Commission changing name The City of Falls Church Urban Forest Commission.

Commissioner Reports

See e-reports

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. by Chair Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on October 17, 2019, in the Government Center Complex (GCC) **Room 232**.

Appendix I
Fairfax County Tree Commission e-Reports
September 19th 2019 Meeting

<p>Monica Billger</p> <p>At Large</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Jeanne Kadet</p> <p>Braddock District</p>	<p>1. The person who helped me develop the Tree Basics booklet is able to help design a brochure for the Tree Preservation and Planting awards. Your ideas would be valuable and appreciated so we can have a brochure that would be an incentive for developers to preserve trees. I anticipate that this would be a trifold brochure we could hand to developers who present at Land Use meetings and also for us to promote at other venues. Please make suggestions as to wording, what should be included, photos/pictures, etc.</p> <p>2. Please send the link to the Tree Basics booklet to your HOA and others, as well as anyone else you think might have access to email lists who might appreciate this information. It has been translated into 5 of the most commonly used languages in Fairfax County and is posted on line.</p> <p>https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/tree-commission/fairfax-county-tree-basics</p>
<p>Robert Vickers</p> <p>Dranesville District</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Dragan Mocilovic</p> <p>Hunter Mill District</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Jessica Bowser</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>

Lee District	
Catherine C. Ledec (Chair) Mount Vernon District	<i>No report</i>
Laura Beaty Providence	<p>Land Use Issues</p> <p>Toll Mid-Atlantic LP Company has a date certain for a hearing on the Thompson Route 29 Property before the planning Commission on September 25, 2019. The company is appealing a zoning change on the property from R-1 and HC to PDH-3 to permit residential development with an overall density of 2.93 dwelling units per acre. The Planning Comm. vote on July 24, 2019 was 12-0 to differ the public hearing.</p> <p>The site, as it appears today, will change dramatically with several acres of trees removed for the new housing plan, if approved. Further little space is left between those houses to support mature trees in the future, so it might be difficult for them to meet their canopy goals.</p> <p>Fairfax County Tree Action Plan</p> <p>I've been studying the 2018 plan and its modifications and am impressed by its intentions. I'm in the process of locating audiences in Fairfax County who can be a part of learning and assisting in implementing the goals of the plan.</p>
VACANT Springfield District	<i>No report</i>
Karen Campblin Sully District	<i>No report</i>
Kevin Holland Mason District	<i>No report</i>

<p>Jim McGlone (Vice-Chair)</p> <p>VA Department of Forestry</p>	<p>Over the past several weeks I have be receiving reports of dying trees, primarily chestnut and white oaks. The trees I have looked at are all in the final stages of oak decline syndrome, which is a condition that has be noted for over 100 years and studied by the forest service for at least 40 years. This is a cumulative stress disorder that may take 5 or more years to kill a tree. there is no specific pathogen or pest involved, though opportunistic pests and disease may contribute. Abiotic factors, such as drought, too much rain, poor soils, bad planting and poor management may also play a role in a trees death. Some of the trees I have looked at showed no signs of insect of fungal activity and may have been "killed" by purely abiotic factors. The attached document goes into more detail.</p> <p>I used "killed" above because most of the calls I have gotten are about trees that have quickly had all or most of their canopies wilt and turn brown very suddenly. While these trees may have died, they may also be very stressed and decided to conserve energy by going dormant early. In the absence of other risk factors, I encourage the owners to wait until next spring to see if the tree leafs out. If the tree does leaf out again next spring, then the owner should take steps to reduce stress on the tree. The simplest steps are to remove turf out to the drip line of the trees and apply hardwood mulch (preferably arborist chips straight off the truck) to a depth of 2 to 3 inches and deep water the area with a soaker hose when the soil dries out to a depth of over 3 inches. Additional practices include vertical mulching, soil decompaction, sub-surface biochar application and/or the application of growth regulating hormones to promote root growth. These more advance practices should be conducted by a certified arborist who is trained to do so.</p>
<p>Richard (Rick) Healy</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>

EQAC	
VACANT Fairfax County Park Authority	<i>No report</i>
Jerry Peters NVSWCD	<i>No report</i>
VACANT Virginia Cooperative Extension	<i>No report</i>