

**Fairfax County Tree Commission
Electronic Meeting Format
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 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 7:02 p.m. on September 16, 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 Commissioner Healy in the absence of 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 Ledec, Commissioner Peters seconds, no opposition, 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 Ledec, Commissioner Speas seconds, no opposition, 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 Ledec, Commissioner Peters seconds, no opposition, 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
Cindy Speas, At-Large, Falls Church VA
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District - Great Falls, VA
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District, Vienna, VA
Jessica Bowser, Lee District, Alexandria, VA
Kevin Holland, Mason District, Falls Church, VA
Laura Beaty, Providence District, Fairfax, VA
Cory Suter, Springfield District, Fairfax Station, VA
Karen Campblin, Sully District, Fairfax, VA
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council, Annandale, VA
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension, Mclean, VA
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District, Great Falls, VA

ABSENT:

Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District- Annandale, VA
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority, Arlington, VA

OTHERS:

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

GUESTS:

Avril Garland, Member of Friends of Accotink Creek
Phil Church, Wildlife Rescue League

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Public Comment:

Avril Garland: Proposed parkway through Cindar Bed Road Bikeway in Springfield.

Phil Church: Joined the meeting to understand what the Tree Commission's role is in the County

Approval of July Minutes

Discussion regarding July meeting minutes. Approval of meeting minutes as amended to remove electronic meeting notice from beginning of minutes.

Commissioner McGlone, Commissioner Speas seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Electronic Meetings post State of Emergency-Brian Keightley

The Tree Commission is still permitted to have public meetings because Fairfax County has decided to still be under a state of emergency. Social Distancing requirements are still required which makes it difficult to find a large enough conference room to seat the Commissioners, Staff and any public that wishes to come to the meeting. May not be capable of hybrid meeting because of lack of technology at the moment with the County.

Introduction of the new DPWES Director-Christopher Herrington

Welcome to Chris Herrington: Retired after 25 years of service as the Environmental Officer for the City of Austin, Texas. Chris began in his new position with Fairfax County as the Director of DPWES on July 12. Chris has an education and professional background in Biology and Environmental Engineering.

Friends of Trees award nominations-Joan Allen

6 Nominations for Friends of Trees awards highlights. Discussion to determine which nominees should be awarded.

- Nominated by Hugh Whitehead: FCPS-For Tree Plantings at local schools using the Tree Planting Fund

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- EFID-(Engineers For International Development) for assisting with Tree Plantings at local schools during COVID when the school children were virtually learning and unable to assist.
- Hickory Farms Community Association-Maintaining forested common space (15 Acres) in their subdivision. Created a management plan in 2015 that included a budget, invasive plant removal including bamboo and dead wood, planting seedlings, mulching trails, collaborated with Stormwater Staff on Rabbit Branch, worked with Fairfax Releaf, etc.
- Monica Perz-Waddington-Master Naturalist in Lee District. Leads tree planting projects and education in her community
- Taylor Beech, Fairfax Releaf-Plantings at schools and in her community
- Will Friedman-Student at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Coordinating plantings at the school before COVID and has been an advocate of planting and removing invasive plants in Mount Vernon District. Went before the BOS to petition to save a chestnut tree at Huntley Meadows that was planned to be removed for the construction of a trail.

Commissioner Vickers motions to approve all nominations that have been put forth, Commissioner Campblin seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Tree Commission Annual Report draft-Chair Ledec & Commissioner Speas
Chair Ledec goes over draft and Commissioner comments on the annual report. Recommendations for sub headers, citing sources, and correcting errors.

Motion 1: Condition #1:

Delete the paragraph in the Introduction that references Global Forest Watch data. Once this is done this satisfies condition #1 and it is considered approved for inclusion in the final published report.

Bret Leslie modified this motion with a friendly amendment that to keep the first and last sentences of this paragraph. Cathy Ledec accepted the friendly amendment.

Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Peters seconds, no opposition, motion carries

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Motion 2: Condition #2:

The paragraph on the Deer Management Program – Commissioner Ledec’s error, the wrong version is in the report that was circulated.

Condition #2 is to replace the Deer Management Program section in Chapter 4 with the correct version. Our editors should then provide language improvements for consistency with the rest of the report. Once this is done, this condition #2 is satisfied and considered approved for inclusion in the final published report.

Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Peters seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Motion #3, Condition #3:

Jerry Peters offered edits to the report by sending them to the TC Chair and Brian Keightley the evening of September 15, 2021. Our Editors should review these to determine if any actions need to be taken to change the language in the report. Once this is done this condition is satisfied for inclusion in the final published report.

Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Speas seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Motion #4, Condition #4:

At our July 15, 2021 TC meeting the TC approved and submitted on September 2, 2021 to the Board of Supervisors a series of recommendations for consideration that could improve tree preservation and planting during the land development process.

While this letter was approved after the reporting period of June 30, 2021 these recommendations are highly relevant and important to include in this consolidated annual report.

Including this letter dated September 2, 2021 as Appendix 7, and referencing it where appropriate in the report also noting that we approved this at our July 15, 2021 meeting, will satisfy this condition for inclusion in the final published report.

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Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Vickers seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Motion #5, Condition #5:

The Tree Commission recognizes the priority that the Fairfax County BOS places on the One Fairfax Policy. We recommend the following Actions be taken to help address the One Fairfax Policy.

1. The Stormwater Capital Improvement Program's projects should be prioritized by ratings in the County's Vulnerability Index with equity in mind.
2. The Fairfax County Park Authority's "Helping Our Land Heal" program should be prioritized by ratings in the County's Vulnerability Index with equity in mind.
3. The Fairfax County Park Authority's Land Acquisition program should be prioritized by ratings in the County's Vulnerability Index with equity in mind.

A favorable vote of the Tree Commission will include these recommendations in the Other Policy Recommendations of the report. Inclusion of these recommendations will satisfy this condition for inclusion in the final published report.

Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Speas seconds

Discussion: Jim McGlone suggested edits to remove repetition, these were accepted by Cathy Ledec

No opposition, motion carries

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Motion #6, Condition #6:

As suggested by Jim McGlone during the TC's review of the document re-order the list of ecosystem benefits to list reduced urban heat island effect, health and well being of residents first.

Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Vickers seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Motion #7:

I move that the content of this, the first ever, Consolidated Annual Report of the Fairfax County Tree Commission be approved subject to the conditions we just approved.

Commissioner Ledec makes the motion, Commissioner Vickers seconds, no opposition, motion carries

Discussion, when Jim McGlone summed re-stated this motion he mentioned that additional edits might be made.

No opposition, motion carries

CECAP Working Group Update-Chair Ledec

Deferred to next meeting

UFMD Directors Report-Brian Keightley

UFMD currently representing the County in two General Assembly Stakeholder Advisory Groups (SAGs).

- Trees as a Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP)
- Study of Tree Conservation and Preservation in Development
- Commissioner McGlone adds-that there are stakeholders from the timber industry that required education on why tree planting has a connection to with social justice.

Community of Practice Meeting Update-planned for the Fall.

- Establish a steering committee
- Due to vacancies in UFMD bringing in a consultant to help.

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Casey Tree Planting Pilot Project-applications are closed.
Pilot Tree and Native Plant Nursery at Noman Cole Wastewater Treatment Plan

Commissioner Activities

Commissioner McGlone

Assisted with arranging a visit of the Route One Corridor in Mount Vernon District for Governor Northam to explain and show him how important Urban Forestry in watersheds, climate issues and social justice are in Virginia. This included a site visit to several communities supported by a Community Foundation of Northern Virginia Grant to the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

0906pm