

Fairfax County Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District
Chet McLaren, At-Large
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Tom Fleury, Providence District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority
Rick Ayers, Springfield District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Campblin, Sully District

GUEST: Ardia Bordas, Representing Virginia Cooperative
Extension, Fairfax County

STAFF PRESENT: Troy Shaw, Forest Pest Branch Chief, UFMD
Rachel Jackson, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison

Call to Order

Chairman Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Minutes

Commissioner Fleury motioned to approve the October 2017 minutes, seconded. The minutes for the October meeting were unanimously approved.

Presentation

- Commissioner Stokely presented the Natural Resource Management Plan Annual Progress Report FY-2017
- A request was made from Commission members to provide the presentation electronically.
- Commissioner Ledec asked how will the work described in the FCPA's Natural Resources Management Plan inform and work towards the achievement of the goals defined in the Tree Action Plan (regardless of its approval status). Annually the Tree Commission provides a report to the Chairman of the BOS and this should be included in that report.

- Commissioner Ledec also noted the following (A) Invasive plants are in some instances completely overtaking trees in smaller community parks in the Mount Vernon District and this is likely impacting many natural areas in Fairfax County and (B) there appears to be no tree replacement plan other than the tree plantings being done with larger ecological restoration projects and through the FCPA's IMA program.
- Commissioner Stokely offered to provide the amount of trees being planted within Fairfax County Park Authority property.

Future Additional Action Items

- Chairman Vickers will share the email he sent to Keith Cline, Director of Urban Forest Management Division (UMFD) regarding future action items and working with UFMD with the commission members. This will be on the agenda for next month.
- Chairman Vickers brought up the date of the December meeting and how close to Christmas. Commissioner Ayers motioned to change the date of the December Tree Commission meeting from December 22, 2017 to December 14, 2017. The motioned was seconded by Commissioner Healy and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Tree Preservation and Planting Awards
 - Commissioners Kadet, Ledec and Campblin are the contacts regarding the Tree Preservation and Planting Awards.
 - Commissioner Kadet requested that the Commission and UFMD staff provide feedback regarding the updated nomination form.
 - It is still unclear how to decide sites are to be nominated and it is encouraged that the developers prepare the documents for the nominations.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner McLaren
 - Has stepped down from his At-Large position and this will be his last meeting.
- Chairman Vickers moved to give special recognition to Chet for his committed service to the Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Commissioner Vickers
 - At the McLean Tree Forum he gave a briefing on the Big Tree Program. The program is very useful for outreach to the public. The database is not being updated on the Commission's website.
- Commissioner Ayers

- Provided an update to Chairman Vickers for the Big Tree web app, it includes the County and State big trees. The new web app will be posted on the Tree Commission website.
- Commissioner Healy
 - The EQUAC Annual Report on the Environment will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday November 21, 2017.
 - The report is significantly different from previous year's reports.
- Tree Action Plan
 - Commissioner Kadet requested the status of the Tree Action Plan and would like an update.
 - Chairman Vickers would like to be involved when the plan is presented to the Environmental Commission of the Board of Supervisors.
 - This will be added as an agenda item for the December meeting.
 - Commissioner Fleury requested that there be a timeline and status detail.
- Commissioner Bowser
 - Delegate Paul Krizek contacted her about trees on U.S. Route 1 and expects more details next month.
- Commissioner Ledec
 - Embark Richmond Highway Project Comprehensive Plan amendment is on the website and available and public hearings are scheduled for January 2018.
 - There is a significant surge in redevelopment near the Huntington Metro Station, there seven redevelopment projects within a mile of the metro station. These are rezoning cases and Comprehensive Plan Amendments.
 - 72 volunteers attended event at Mount Eagle Park and 25 trees were planted.
- Commissioner Kadet
 - Tree Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2018.
 - Northern Virginia Training Center has been sold to Erickson Corporation that will go through rezoning and proposes 1,100 residences.
 - Parcel on Braddock Road that is R-1 could be redeveloped for 49 homes that backs on a park near George Mason University.
 - There will be significant impact to trees with these developments.
- Commissioner Fleury
 - Tysons Corner Association is working on their master plan and finalized the signage budget. It includes extensive plantings underneath the metro rails.

- The Arlington County group is frustrated over infill lot development and are meeting with Commissioner Fleury and asking questions and their next step is to propose legislation with the State. Commissioner Fleury told them the Commission would support them if they need it in Richmond.
- Commissioner McGlone
 - There is a temporary change of area due to a staff member being promoted and one is temporarily inactive.
 - Round Table conference was November 19, 2017, provided information on the research on trees and quality of life.
 - There will be a new job with the County Health Department as an Urban Planner working with trees and health.
- Commissioner Momcilovic
 - Trail in Tysons Corner has started construction it is under powerlines and crossing a creek.
- Commissioner Holland
 - Hidden Oaks Nature Center held the Meaningful Watershed Experience (MEWE) for 150 kids and they went through 7 stations.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Report – Adria Bordas
 - Master Gardener training starts in January
 - Working on a replacement for the vacant VCE Commissioner seat with meet with Staff to discuss.

UFMD Report (Troy Shaw)

- Urban Forester III open position will be filled, the vacancy was from a retirement.
- I-tree data is complete and data will be provided to UFMD soon and a presentation will be scheduled for the Tree Commission.

Tree Commission Elections

- The nominating committee of Commissioners Peters and Kadet have not received any interest.
- Commissioner Peters opened the floor for nominations.
- No interest was shown.
- Commissioner Peters made a motion to hold a vote to re-elect Chairman Vickers and Vice Chairman McGlone, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kadet and unanimously approved. Chairman Vickers and Vice Chairman McGlone will serve for the 2018 calendar year.
- Questions regarding the process for elections were raised and the 2007 draft bylaws were referenced. The bylaws from 2007 have not been adopted. A request for the process on how to hold elections was made.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on December 14, 2017, in Herrity 122.