

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2017

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:42 on 10/19/2017 in 122 Herrity by Chairman Vickers.

Present

Craig Herwig, Forest Conservation Branch Chief, UFMD

Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

Rachel Habig-Myers, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison

Rachel Jackson, UFMD

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

Karen Campblin, Sully District

Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

Sheila D. Allen Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County

Tom Fleury, Providence District

Absent

Kevin Holland, Mason District

Rick Ayers, Springfield District

Chet McLaren, At-Large

Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council

John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority

Approval of Minutes

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

Open Issues

Tree Commission Position Description Discussion with Rachel Habig-Myers

- Tree Commissioners provided content to be used to draft job descriptions for their roles prior to the meeting, which compiled by UFMD and provided as a handout.

- Tree Commissioners need assistance/collaboration from Urban Foresters-as was included multiple times in the draft job description handout.
- The tree commissioners expressed a desire for a “job description” or at least better understanding of relationship between Urban Foresters and Tree Commissioners.
- An area of need was highlighted by UFMD: in order to work together effectively, the role of the Tree Commission needs to be redefined. With outdated operating procedures and/or Charter it is difficult to determine suitable opportunities for collaboration or assistance. The current composition of the Tree Commission as largely “interested citizens” rather than members of the tree care or development industries should be reflected in the operating procedures of the Commission.
- A point was made that the Tree Commission appears to desire a more operational role, rather than inspirational or aspirational. This desire may be feeding the thoughts support is needed from UFMD staff. Concerns about hearing complaints and/or conducting site visits with citizens was raised by other commissioners also.
- The Big Steps Team within UFMD stands as a supporting body to the Tree Commission in their efforts to become more effective.

Tree Preservation and Planting Awards Nominated Sites -Hugh Whitehead.

- Overture Fair Ridge, nominated for preservation award by Rachel Jackson (UFMD). Canopy provided was 164% of requirement. Fence pillars were field located, installed along an existing fenceline to avoid more tree removals. Commissioner Peters moved to grant award, Commissioner Campblin seconded. All voted in favor.
- 707 Utterback Store Rd., nominated for preservation award by Chairman Vickers. Only one tree was removed for this project while minimizing other land disturbance. Commissioner Fleury moved to grant award, Commissioner Peters seconded. All voted in favor.
- 1024 Utterback Store Rd., nominated for preservation award by Chairman Vickers. Only one tree was removed for this project. Fence installation and landscaping were sited to avoid existing trees. Commissioner Peters moved to grant award, Commissioner McGlone seconded. All voted in favor.
- Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Phase 1, nominated for planting award by landscaping firm. Due to the historic nature of this site planting spaces are limited, to meet requirements that it continue to retain the character of the old DC prison. Bioretention plantings are included, and available planting spaces were maximized where allowed by various historic requirements. The landscaping firm was very proactive in communications with UFMD and provided high quality plantings. Commissioner Kadet moved to grant award, Commissioner Fleury seconded. All voted in favor.

- Woodland Dr, nominated for preservation recognition by owner/developer. Preserved several mature oak trees by adjusting proposed limits of disturbance, siting houses of subdivision to allow preservation. Cambistat injections were used to mitigate potential root loss caused by erosion and sediment control installation. Invasive plant management was also proposed. Commissioner Ledec moved to grant award, Commissioner Bowser seconded. All voted in favor.
- Olde Towne Rd, nominated for preservation recognition by builder/owner. House was demolished by hand, with a small LOD around the house, 5-8 feet from the wall of the proposed structure. Trenchless super silt fence, a thick layer of mulch and plywood, and root pruning in the vicinity of the original foundation were added measures. Commissioner Ledec moved to grant recognition, Commissioner Campblin seconded. All voted in favor.

Future Additional Action Items

- Chairman Vickers appointed Commissioners Peters and Kadet as a Nominating Team for elections.
- Chairman Vickers asked for an update on the Tree Action Plan.
 - Hugh Whitehead stated that it was disseminated to the commission prior to sending to outside agencies. It will be disseminated to outside agencies next week, and there is a one month comment period. Then it goes to the Environment Committee.

UFMD Report

- Various outreach efforts have occurred in the last month at McLean Tree Forum, Department of Planning and Zoning, Engineers and Surveyors Institute, and Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division.
- Starting in November all infill lot grading plans will be reviewed by UFMD in the Providence District.

Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner McGlone:
 - New Credits for urban TMDLs have been approved by Chesapeake Bay Program. Guidance to come, reporting will be through VDOF.
 - A 3 year grant has been awarded to VDOF to work on emerald ash borer issues, including funding for a part time specialist to work with homeowners, and cost share money for treatment on public and private lands.
 - A new Asian flathead borer (also *Agriilus*) has been found in New Jersey. The preferred host is ailanthus.

- The proposed federal budget has no funding for urban and community forestry program. He suggested everyone contact their legislators, and will try to provide talking points to aid that effort.
- The NOVA Urban Forest Conference will be held November 9, 2017 at Algonkian Regional Park.
- Commissioner Fleury:
 - Has been invited to speak at the Arlington group that was in attendance at the last meeting, and will be helping them move forward.
- Commissioner Kadet:
 - Braddock Tree Forum has been rescheduled for March 7, 2018.
 - Alerted commission to recent purchase of the Northern VA Training Center, at 79 acres is one of the largest “pretty heavily treed” properties in the Braddock District. It is proposed for development as senior housing, and could require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezoning.
 - She was also approached by the Arlington group, but has put scheduling on hold until she can provide better information about the recently revised tree preservation and planting awards process.
- Commissioner Ledec:
 - Riverside Apartments are proposing redevelopment that will reduce imperious area of parking. The owner, WASH REIT are holding a day of community service to involve tree planting, with approximately 100 volunteers expected.
 - EMBARK will be out for comments soon, probably in next 30 days.
 - Requested that John Stokely’s presentation be available in advance for the Tree Commission.
- Commissioner Allen:
 - Plant Clinics have closed for the year.
 - Robert E Lee High School biology classes are beginning a partnership with Master Gardeners to learn to identify native and invasives plants at Hidden Spring.
 - As she leaves the commission she pledged to continue outreach and communication efforts on behalf of the commission, and will provide orientation/guidance to her replacement.

New Business

- A request was made to acknowledge all involved parties (owner, builder, etc.) with preservation or planting awards for each site.
- A request was made to give plaques rather than just certificates at future Friends of Trees Awards. This should be retroactive to include this year’s recipients.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on November 16, 2017, in Herrity 122.

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Habig-Myers, Urban Forester II UFMD

Approved by: [Name]