

**Urban Forestry Commission
February 28, 2013
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Dean Amel
Larry Finch
Nora Palmatier
Ed Hilz
Mikaila Milton
Caroline Haynes
Mary Ann Lawler
Scott Brintzer
Steve Campbell

State and County Staff

Jane Rudolph, DPR
Caroline Temmermand, DPR
Lisa Grandle, DPR
Susan Kalish, DPR
Vincent Verweij, DPR
Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Marco Paredes, DPR
Jim Meikle, APS
Jim McGlone, VDOF

Guests

Paul Campanella
Ed Demoney, Friends of Gulf Branch
Alex Sanders
Brooke Alexander

Scott Brintzer was welcomed as a new Urban Forestry Commission member. Mr. Brintzer is a 25-year resident of Arlington County. He is a Landscape Architect and owner of a landscape design firm.

The commission also welcomed Alex Sanders as a new E2C2 liaison to the Urban Forestry Commission.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

2013 UFC Work Plan

The commission agreed on updates and slight edits to the 2012 UFC Work Plan to be incorporated into a work plan for 2013. In addition to changing dates where appropriate, the following changes will be incorporated into the 2013 UFC Work Plan:

- Planning Process – the updated 2013 work plan will reflect that the UFC will participate actively in planning activities (rather than “participate *more* actively”), as stated in the 2012 plan. This change is being made to reflect that the UFC is currently participating very actively in planning activities thanks to the work of UFC and Planning Commission member Karen Kumm Morris.

- Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – The 2013 work plan will reflect that the UFC will continue to play a role in the roundtable. The 2012 plan stated that the commission would continue to play a *leadership* role. Although the commission will continue to be active in the roundtable, with members such as Nora Palmatier regularly attending and participating, the word “leadership” will be removed from the 2013 plan to reflect that UFC member Larry Finch is no longer serving as president of the roundtable. That role has been assumed by Jim McGlone.
- Outreach and Education – This section of the 2013 work plan will be worded to reflect that there will be an increased emphasis on outreach and education. It will also state that outreach and education efforts will be concentrated in areas of the County identified as having low tree canopy coverage.

Jamie Bartalon will work with Dean Amel to finalize wording in the 2013 UFC Work Plan. The plan will then be distributed to UFC members.

Tree Canopy Fund Update – Elenor Hodges, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment

Elenor Hodges, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), reviewed the history of grants awarded, trees planted/surviving, and costs associated with the Tree Canopy Fund Grant Program since awards began in 2010. Jamie Bartalon noted that the County recently received a \$79,000 contribution to the Tree Canopy Fund from a developer who could not plant the required number of trees on a Site Plan project. With the recent contribution, the Tree Canopy Fund currently contains about \$135,000.

Ms. Hodges distributed a summary of issues and discussion items for the 2013-2014 grant cycle. She proposed a program timeline that is similar to last year’s. She also noted that more oversight of the contractor is needed during planting. A visit to inspect trees at the contractor’s nursery is also recommended.

Commission members agreed that education and outreach efforts need to be increased to encourage program participation in neighborhoods with low tree canopy coverage. Vincent Verweij will provide a GIS analysis that identifies areas with low tree canopy coverage.

Ms. Hodges noted that Tree Canopy Fund Grants for tree planting are currently limited to applications from groups. She asked for UFC input on whether application guidelines should be expanded to allow individual residents to apply for tree planting grants. There was general agreement that the program could accept applications from individual residents, but that marketing and outreach should continue to be done through civic associations. Individual applications may be pooled to form groups for administrative purposes.

The commission also discussed whether the planting of smaller/understory trees should be funded in more situations. It was noted that some applicants would prefer to plant smaller trees where space is limited, such as sites near buildings. Nora Palmatier asked whether the planting of smaller caliper trees or “whips” should be considered in future years. Although a final decision was not reached, Dean Amel suggested that the commission may want to recommend

that the Tree Canopy Fund be used to purchase tree “whips” for the County’s Tree Distribution Program, if it is cut from the FY 2014 budget as proposed.

Ms. Hodges also informed the commission that ACE plans to renew last year’s tree planting contract with Davey Tree and hire a new coordinator for the planting season.

FY 2014 Proposed Budget – Jane Rudolph, Director, DPR

DPR’s new director, Jane Rudolph, and Shannon Flanagan-Watson (former DPR interim director) briefed the commission on the County’s FY 14 proposed budget. DPR Division Chiefs, Caroline Temmermand (Parks and Natural Resources Division) and Lisa Grandle (Park Development Division) provided detailed information on the proposed budgets for their divisions. Copies of “DPR’s FY 2014 Proposed Budget Overview” fact sheet were distributed to commission members. The fact sheet is attached to these minutes and referenced below.

Ms. Rudolph summarized the County Board’s guidance for preparing the proposed budget. She noted that the County Manager has proposed a 3.2 cent tax rate increase, and that the County Board advertised up to a 5 cent increase in the tax rate. If the County Board adopts a 3.2 cent tax rate increase, there would be a \$9.3 million County budget gap to fill in FY 2014.

Ed Hilz asked whether each department was asked to submit the same percentage budget reduction for the proposed budget. Shannon Flanagan Watson explained that the percentage of proposed reductions varied by department size. In general, large departments (such as DPR) were asked to submit proposed budgets that included 3.5 % reductions, while small departments were asked to submit reductions of 1.5%.

DPR’s proposed budget reductions were summarized by division. Lisa Grandle reported that proposed reductions in the Park Development Division include holding a Planning Team Supervisor position vacant for six months. A Management and Budget Specialist position in the Director’s Office will also be held vacant for six months. Ms. Grandle also noted that DPR’s Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) program will be suspended during FY 2014, but not permanently eliminated. She also reviewed a list of FY 2014 Parks Maintenance Capital Projects. The list and summary of each is contained in “DPR’s FY 2014 Proposed Budget Overview” fact sheet (attached).

Caroline Temmermand summarized the reductions proposed in the Parks and Natural Resources (PNR) budget. The proposed reductions include:

- Elimination of a Trades Worker position in the Forestry and Landscaping Section;
- Elimination of a Natural Resource Specialist position at Long Branch Nature Center;
- Eliminating the Tree Distribution Program;
- Reducing the budget for landscaping and forestry supplies by \$7,000; and,
- Reducing the operating hours at both nature centers by six hours per week (from 39 hours to 33 hours).

In addition to base budget reductions, the FY 2014 proposed budget does not include one-time funding additions for contracted invasive plant control (\$100,000), enhanced tree watering through the use of four temporary/seasonal employees (\$40,000), and tree planting (\$52,500) that the County Board included in the FY 2013 budget.

Ed Hilz asked why the Trades Worker and Natural Resource Specialist positions are not being held as unfilled, rather than eliminated. He noted that once positions are eliminated, they are likely to be difficult to re-establish (as compared to unfilled positions which have been put “on hold”).

Shannon Flanagan Watson explained that, while DPR is holding some positions as unfilled, some permanent reductions are also necessary to meet FY 2014 budget guidelines. She also noted that the financial climate in the future is uncertain at this time, but that budget pressures are expected to continue.

Caroline Haynes noted that, in addition to the proposed reduction in nature center hours, their non-personnel operating budget is also proposed to be reduced. Dean Amel noted that the County’s draft Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit includes a requirement to distribute 2,000 trees to residents to plant on private property over the 5-year permit cycle, yet the proposed budget includes eliminating the Tree Distribution Program. He asked whether DES may be able to cover the cost of this program. Caroline Temmermand thanked Mr. Amel for his suggestion. Alternative funding mechanisms such as the potential use of DES’s Stormwater Fund and DPR’s Tree Canopy Fund will be examined.

Ed Hilz stressed the importance of watering and maintaining trees as necessary long-term investments in the County’s tree stock. He noted that such investments in the County’s “green infrastructure” are just as important as capital maintenance projects. Shannon Flanagan Watson noted that very few proposals for one-time funding (like tree watering) were accepted in this year’s proposed budget.

Dean Amel also stressed that funding temporary positions for enhanced watering of trees is a very valuable investment. Likewise, the continued investment in contracted invasive plant control is necessary, or previous years’ accomplishments will be lost. He noted that the UFC will strongly advocate for funding these programs in the FY 2014 budget.

In light of the fact that the Natural Resource Management Unit (currently comprised of Alonso Abugattas) does not have an operating budget, Dean Amel suggested that the UFC may also want to consider whether it would be advantageous to transfer the Invasive Plant Control Program (and operating funds associated with it), to the Natural Resource Management Unit. Caroline Temmermand noted that such a transfer would require the Natural Resource Manager to assume supervisory responsibilities, which would take some time away from work on implementing the Natural Resource Management Plan.

Caroline Haynes noted that the County Board’s budget guidance included an emphasis on environmental sustainability. However, it seems that disproportionate reductions to the Parks and Natural Resources Division’s budget have been proposed. She also stressed that it would be

a waste of money and previous efforts if funding is not provided for follow-up invasive plant control treatments.

Nora Palmatier commented that the DPR's budget reductions appear to have been proposed as separate pieces, rather than considering how they relate to big-picture priorities. She questioned why programs for tree planting, maintenance and survival do not seem to be treated as County and departmental priorities. Scott Brinitzer added that it is a waste of money to plant trees and allow them to die because of insufficient watering. He stressed that watering should be considered to be a maintenance priority.

Ed Hilz commented that there seems to be more of an emphasis on facility maintenance than maintenance of Arlington's tree stock and green infrastructure, which are just as important as "built" infrastructure. Mary Ann Lawler added that surveys have shown that natural resources are among the top priorities for Arlington residents. She stressed that budget priorities should reflect such citizen input.

Jim Hurley thanked Caroline Temmermand for committing \$75,000 in operating funds for invasive plant control in FY 2012, and advocating for \$100,000 in FY 2013. However, he stressed that follow-up treatments are necessary, or previous investments will be wasted. He stressed the importance of identifying continuing funding for invasive plant control efforts, as well as operating funds to support the Natural Resource Management Unit.

Dean Amel and Ed Demoney (Friends of Gulf Branch) noted that proposed budget reductions for the nature centers will have significant programmatic impacts. Mr. Demoney also stressed that reducing weekend hours will have a significant negative impact on neighborhood and non-school use of the centers. Jane Rudolph and Caroline Temmermand explained that the scheduling of operating hours can be examined so that impacts of the reduced hours are minimized. Steve Campbell commented that it does not seem equitable that nature center hours are being reduced, yet library hours are staying the same. He also suggested that delays or reductions to some park development/improvement projects should be considered as potential budget reductions.

Shannon Flanagan Watson and Lisa Grandle explained that funds from the capital budget cannot be used to balance the operating budget. Caroline Temmermand added that maintenance cycles for facilities are far behind recommended frequencies.

Nora Palmatier commented that DPR park and facility improvement projects seem to be designed at levels that are beyond what is needed to serve their basic functions, and at higher costs than necessary. She added that new designs also require too much maintenance, and that maintenance cycles are going to continue to fall further behind. She advocated for more simple designs with fewer "bells and whistles".

Dean Amel thanked Jane Rudolph and the DPR budget team for their attendance and information on the proposed budget. He will write a draft UFC comment on the proposed budget and circulate it for commission input. He noted that the letter should be finalized in time to go to the County Board before their March 18 budget work session with DPR.

Trees and Arlington's Draft Stormwater Permit

Jamie Bartalon announced that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public hearing to accept comments on Arlington's draft Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit on March 22. Comments will be accepted until March 29.

Karen Kumm Morris had asked staff what impacts the new permit may have on trees and natural resources. Jamie Bartalon shared information previously provided by DES staff on watershed retrofit projects. These projects often involve channeling stormwater into planted areas along the edges of streets and medians through curb-cuts. Current DES practices do not permit trees to be planted within the actual drainage facility.

DES has committed to coordinating with DPR to review proposed projects for any tree impacts and tree planting opportunities. Most retrofit projects will be installed in parking lanes, where asphalt will be removed to establish planting areas, so that trees and tree planting spaces will not be impacted. A small number of projects may decrease tree planting opportunities in medians. However, many will involve the removal of asphalt to create new medians where bio-retention areas and trees will be installed. Vincent Verweij will brief the UFC on any watershed retrofit projects that may potentially impact trees.

Dean Amel noted that the draft MS4 Permit requires that Arlington County plant a minimum of 2,000 trees on County property and distribute a minimum of 2,000 trees to plant on private property during the 5-year permit period. Commission members noted that DPR's FY 2014 proposed budget calls for eliminating funding for the county's Tree Distribution Program. Mr. Amel noted that the UFC may want to refer to the draft MS4 Permit's tree planting and distribution requirements when advocating for FY 2014 budget allocations.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes from the January 24, 2013 and the December 20, 2012 UFC meetings were approved with minor edits. Approval of the December minutes was postponed from the January UFC meeting because of an e-mail problem that prevented some commission members from receiving copies of the draft minutes.

Staff Reports

Lacey Woods Park Shelter and Pathways -

Jamie Bartalon and Vincent Verweij briefed the commission on DPR plans to replace the picnic shelter at Lacey Woods Park and install ADA compliant "Flexi-pave" pathways leading to the shelter. The new shelter will be installed on the same approximate footprint as the existing shelter, with some slight adjustments to avoid impacts to surrounding trees. Concept plans were reviewed and comments were forwarded to Park

Development staff by Parks and Natural Resource (PNR) staff members Vincent Verweij, Alonso Abugattas, Kevin Stalica and Jamie Bartalon.

PNR staff advised that, if the asphalt path leading from the shelter to North George Mason Drive is removed in order to install Flexi-pave, the asphalt should be removed by hand in order to minimize impacts to adjacent trees. Flexi-pave is also proposed for installation on top of an existing gravel road that leads from the playground area to the shelter. PNR staff questions the benefits of installing Flexi-pave over a compacted surface such as the gravel road, since the base layer of gravel may not be permeable to run-off.

Dean Amel questioned why an attempt is being made to make the path from the shelter to North George Mason Drive ADA compliant, since the path ends at a stairway that goes down to North George Mason Drive. Nora Palmatier noted that the existing dirt path that goes from North Frederick Street to the shelter is already very compacted and fairly level. She asked if an ADA compliant pathway could be installed at that location, rather than replacing the path that leads to the stairway at North George Mason Drive. She also suggested that parking for ADA accessibility at the dead-end of North Edison Street should be considered.

Plans for the Lacey Woods Park shelter and pathways will be presented to the Bluemont Civic Association at the end of March. The UFC will discuss the project further at its March meeting if tree-related issues exist after the civic association meeting. At that time it will be determined if a UFC letter commenting on project plans is warranted.

Tree Planting and Soil Volume -

Jamie Bartalon reported that staff from DPR, DES and CPHD met with Karen Kumm Morris, Caroline Haynes and Scott Brinitzer to discuss tree planting specifications and details to increase soil volume for trees in urban corridors that are planted in tree pits. An interdepartmental staff has been working on this issue and improvements to other tree planting details. Trees spaced 30 feet apart that are planted in pits connected by continuous soil panels beneath the sidewalk typically achieve soil volumes of 450 to 500 cubic feet per tree. A minimum soil volume of 600 cubic feet per tree is desirable.

If the distance between trees and soil depth remain the same, the width of continuous soil panels must increase in order to increase soil volume. The use of Silva Cells (or their equivalent) is one way to increase the width of soil panels while still providing structural support to sidewalks. Silva cells have been used on some Site Plan projects; however, they are a rather expensive proprietary product, making them difficult to require. DES Engineering staff is currently exploring the use of engineered concrete in sidewalks to span wider soil panels. Currently, sidewalks are designed to span 5-foot wide soil panels. If reinforced/engineered concrete were able to span 7-foot wide soil panels, soil volume could be increased to approximately 600 cubic feet per tree.

DES engineers will continue to research the structural integrity of using engineered concrete to span wider soil panels. Interdepartmental staff will also continue to work on other improvements to planting details, including a list of recommended species.

Community Workshops for “Realize Rosslyn”

Jamie Bartalon reminded commission members that community workshops for Realize Rosslyn will be held on March 13 and 14 at Artisphere. Realize Rosslyn is a new effort to create a community vision and planning framework that will be used to update and fine-tune Rosslyn’s current long-range plan.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – The Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) report by Caroline Haynes is attached.

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes’ Park and Recreation Commission report is attached.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris’ Planning Activities report is attached.

Public Facilities Review Committee – Ed Hilz’s Public Facilities Review Committee report is attached.

E2C2 – Dean Amel’s E2C2 report is attached.

Champion Trees Committee – No Report.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier’s report on Tree Steward activities is attached.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier’s Tree Canopy Fund Report is attached.

Ballston Pond Stakeholders Committee – No report.

Boathouse Planning – No Report.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee – Elizabeth Rives’ NCAC report is attached.

Columbia Pike Form Based Code Advisory Working Group – Steve Campbell’s Columbia Pike Form Based Code Advisory Working Group report is attached.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Jim McGlone announced that the Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable met today in Falls Church. This roundtable continued with the theme of stormwater management, and included a presentation by Vincent Verweij (as well as a presentation by Jim McGlone). The next roundtable will be hosted by Arlington County in late May (most likely May 23 or May 30). Nora Palmatier volunteered to help with planning the event.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Jim McGlone (VDOT) announced that Tree Virginia is sponsoring a workshop in Roanoke on March 6, which will include a presentation on trees and stormwater. Also, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will host a “green breakfast” on March 9. Mr. McGlone also announced that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is now a sponsoring agency for Virginia Master Naturalists. He also noted that May 4 has been designated as “Mid-Atlantic Invasive Species Day”.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Jim Meikle reported that 26 new re-locatable classrooms will be at Arlington schools this summer. The installation at Abingdon Elementary School may result in some impacts to trees (mainly Bradford pears) due to difficulties accessing the site behind the school building. Vincent Verweij will assess the situation and recommend any mitigation measures to help reduce tree impacts.

Mr. Meikle also reported that community conversations are continuing about impacts of the project to the mature flowering cherry trees located along the street. The trees are approaching 50 years of age and are nearing the end of their expected lifespan.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – No report.

New Business

- Dean Amel asked staff to provide an update on County Board action regarding proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for parking at middle and elementary schools, as well as recreational facilities. Jamie Bartalon will send an update to commission members.
- UFC members Caroline Haynes and Larry Finch attended a public meeting on park planning efforts and changes envisioned at Potomac Overlook Regional Park. The meeting was very contentious, with nearly all attendees expressing concern about changes that the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) is planning for the park, and the lack of opportunity for public involvement in the planning process. The commission will continue to monitor events and may submit comments if appropriate.
- Dean Amel shared concerns about the large number of trees that have been removed by VDOT during highway construction projects along Washington Boulevard and Arlington Boulevard, as well as the bridge replacement project at Washington Boulevard and Columbia Pike. Approximately 50 to 70 trees were most recently removed. County staff

confirmed that they were unaware of VDOT plans to remove trees between the ramp areas at Washington Boulevard and Arlington Boulevard in order to use the site for depositing dirt from their nearby projects. Many of the trees that were removed had been planted by volunteers from Arlington ReLeaf.

- Dean Amel announced that Arlington National Cemetery and the Army Corps of Engineers will host an open house and field visit to discuss options for burial site expansion associated with their Millennium Project. The open house will take place on Saturday, March 16, from 1 pm to 4 pm. The preferred option recommended in their initial Environmental Assessment (EA) would result in the removal of over 1,700 trees and extreme disturbance of a wooded stream valley. The UFC submitted comments on the original EA for this project in January. A revised EA is currently be prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers. Caroline Haynes noted that the County Board has encouraged residents to contact their state delegates with comments/concerns about the project.
- Dean Amel shared an e-mail from Claire O’Dea (E2C2 and NRJAG member) regarding the US Forest Service’s National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), which monitors the deposition of atmospheric pollutants on National Forests. The NADP has recently established an Urban Subcommittee to focus on deposition in urban areas and the possible expansion of monitoring efforts to include urban forests. Ms. O’Dea asked if Arlington County may want to consider becoming one of the first urban NADP pilot sites. Some County resources and staff time would be required to participate in this effort, though specific protocols for monitoring in urban areas are still being developed.
- Vincent Verweij announced that he will send UFC members a draft list of recommended trees for their review. He also noted that he has recently given presentations at the Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable, and to Tree Stewards.
- Caroline Haynes e-mailed commission members the Arlington Regional Master Naturalist (ARMN) 2012 Annual Report. The report notes that ARMN members and trainees provided 8,500 hours of volunteer service in 2012.

Attachments to February 28, 2013 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes

Summary of February 4, 2013 NRJAG meeting:

Vincent Verweij presented abbreviated program on trees and stormwater management and update on tree canopy data. We began discussion about chapters in Urban Forest Master Plan that specifically relate to the Natural Resource Management Plan. Larry Finch agreed to take a first cut at looking at what sections need updating with respect to the NRMP and we will be discussing that further at Monday's meeting. Also on the agenda for Monday, we will be hearing from Caroline Temmermand (Parks and Natural Resources Division) and Lisa Grandle, (Planning and Design Division) on DPR planting policies.

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

Summary of February 26, 2013 Park and Recreation Commission meeting:

I missed the following two updates on Long Bridge Park and on the Columbia Pike Form Based Code, but was present for the budget presentation by Jane Rudolph and senior staff, which will also be presented to UFC on Thursday. Chairman Paul Holland circulated the priorities for 2013 which include: 1) complete needs assessment and land acquisition plan, 2) strengthen relationship between PRC and Planning Commission, 3) Preserve Wilson School property and associated open space, 4) complete economic impact study for Arlington County parks, 5) improve DPR relationship with APS.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

UFC Planning Activity Report On-going Site Plan Review Committee Activity

February 28, 2013

Colony House – SP #423, Likely to have PC public hearing in April.

- Located along Lee Hwy at old Colony Furniture site.
- Proposal for an 8 story hotel, 168 units with bonus density.
- Proposes row of street trees along Lee Hwy. (7-Swamp Oaks), along N. Quinn (6-London Plane) and preservation of ex. wooded hillside on the south adjacent to the Rosslyn Heights apartment building.
- Have requested additional trees beyond property along Lee Hwy. to improve pedestrian environment. May not achieve due to VDOT and applicant's concern to not provide maintenance beyond their property.

Pierce Queen Apartments – SP #425, Scheduled for PC public hearing March 6, 2013

- Located between 16th Street and Rt. 50 in the Fort Myer North Planning Area

- Proposed a 12 story, 193 unit apartment that steps down in height towards 16th Street.
- Master Plan calls for preservation of 2 mature Willow Oaks at either end of the 2 preserved garden apartments, wide tree planting strips (6 ft in width) and a garden apartment character for the public realm.
- Proposed plans achieve these master plan urban tree recommendations. Streetscape is significantly improved by the proposal, more street trees planted than are there today. 12 Ginkgo's along Pierce and Queen, 6 Pin Oaks along 16th Street, and 6 Chinese Elms along mid-block pathway.
- The significant historic preservation of 2 existing garden apartments along 16th Street maintains the garden character of the community.

Penn Place – PDSP and SP #105 Amendment

- 12 ac site located south of Army Navy Drive, Pentagon City
- Significant opportunities for urban forest improvements.
- Multi use, phased development of approx. 6 blocks with 5 bldgs and 1 ac. open space. Streets and, open space and mix of uses are all being discussed by SPRC. May include a secure building site with significant bldg. setbacks (82') from curb. Offers significant tree planting opportunity but less urban and activating. Very controversial. General UFC Comments for Design Guidelines are:
- Start street tree layout at approximately 30 feet back from the corner intersection (out of clear zone sight lines) in order to increase shade and maximize tree canopy.
- Pull back underground garage from tree pit alignments. This is especially a concern along the private streets.
- Increase soil volume provided to each tree. Strive to achieve up to 650 to 1,000 cubic feet of amended soil per tree.

Latitude Apartments – SP #426

- Located at NE corner of Fairfax Drive and Monroe Street, Virginia Square.
- Proposed 12 story residential building, 256 units with ground floor retail and plaza.
- Master Plan calls for office uses not residential. Much SPRC discussion over the proposed use and whether or not there is proper balance between jobs and housing within the planning area.
- Street trees are proposed on all 4 block frontages. Standard concerns that the trees do not start close enough to the street corners. Could achieve more tree canopy.
- On going SPRC discussion.

Rosslyn Plaza – PDSP, SP #422

- Located between Kent Street and Arlington Ridge Road
- Proposed mixed use development, 1.8 million SF offices, 300-360 residential units, 1 hotel, and significant urban open space.
- Under SPRC review. Very controversial due to lack of street grid, nature of urban open space
- Proposed urban tree plans along all street frontages and within open spaces over structure. Significant amount of tree plantings.

- Plans likely to be revised.

10th Street Flats – Use Permit 3348-12-1

- Located at 3132 10th Street in Clarendon.
- On hold. No SPRC schedule yet.
-

American Service Center – Land Use Study, GLUP Amendment #72

- On going land use study. No SPRC schedule yet.

1000 N. Glebe Rd (Blue Goose Building) – SP#64 Amendment

- Potential application. No SPRC schedule yet.

Rosslyn Station Area Addendum – Realize Rosslyn

- Update of the Sector Plan
- The community discussion will enable the County to address these key planning issues:
 Creating an enhanced **urban design framework**
 Refining, improving **transportation options**
 Recommending a **building heights strategy**
 Developing a **more cohesive, functional parks and open space network**
- **Next Workshop for community input is March 13 and 14.**
- **UFC members need to attend and promote urban forestry goals of 17% canopy coverage or more.** Crystal City has 17% canopy coverage. Need to advocate for wide sidewalks (wider than 15 feet as called for in the Transportation Study) and greater soil volume than current County Standard because there's no break out space for the roots to find.

March PC Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 4, 2013

1. Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan Update
2. Ordinance - Amend, Reenact, & Recodify Chapter 23
3. Phase I Long bridge park Aquatics, Health & Fitness Facility
 - A. Master Plan for Park & Rec Facilities
 - B. GP-323-13-1, GLUP
 - C. Z-2564-13-1, Rezoning
 - D. U-335-13-1, Use Permit
 - E. Certification of TDR

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

4. U-3356-13-1, UP for the Homeless Shelter Services, 2020 14th Street, North
5. *Informational Item: Zoning Ordinance Update (Phase IIA Reformat)*
6. SP #425, Pierce Queen Apartments

Public Facilities Review Committee – Ed Hilz

The Public Facilities Review Committee met on Feb 20 regarding the addition to Ashlawn Elementary School at 5950 8th Road North.

For your reference, I am including the Feb 21 letter (previously sent to the UFC on Feb 22) from the PFRC Chair Charles Monfort to County Board Chair Walter Tejada that provides an update regarding the pending issues regarding the project.

At the Feb 20 meeting, the Toole Design Group (Arlington Public Schools consultant) reviewed the Ashlawn Schematic Design Plan. PFRC had several questions regarding the outside of building and the grounds, such as walkways to the building, open space use, the façade, the shielding of HVAC equipment, and the entrances to the building.

In addition, Toole presented their Draft Transportation Plan for Ashlawn including 53 project recommendations intended to mitigate demand for automobile traffic and improve pedestrian safety. The recommendations were broken into six project categories: pedestrian access and safety, signs and markings, bicycle access, parking, traffic engineering and operations, and enforcement.

The Arlington Department of Environmental Services Transportation Division staff presented their assessment of the recommendations. DES staff added one recommendation (creation of an 8th Road & Wilson Blvd intersection) and did not support five of recommendations which they concluded would not improve pedestrian safety or improve traffic operations. Their assessment did not provide cost estimates or discuss when and how the proposals might be funded.

E2C2 – Dean Amel

At its January meeting, E2C2 met with Jay Fisette, heard an update on the Community Energy Plan, adopted a commission letter on the planned Arlington National Cemetery tree cutting (a letter that I wrote based entirely on the great letter Caroline wrote for us), and adopted a letter on the Washington Blvd. bike trail that was very similar to the UFC letter, but focused more on the stream runoff effects of the bike trail than we did. My E2C2 term ended January 31, so this is my last report.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier

The TreeSteward training class is going on every Wednesday evening 7 – 9:30 at Fairlington Community center through Graduation Party on April 24. UFC members are welcome to attend any session and come for the Graduation Party. This year the presenters slides are being put on our website if you wish to look at them. Go to www.TreeStewards.org, put your cursor on “Join Us” at the top, and a drop box with Class Materials comes down. Click on that and you’ll see the three programs already provided.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

I think our discussion on Thursday should include ways to incorporate the “free tree distribution” of little container trees that the proposed FY14 budget is cancelling. Given that program has been cost effective since nearly 800 recipients plant their own trees, tend to get personal education from TS when they pick up the tree, and it is a smaller tree with possibly better survival rates, UFC has an opportunity to not let this project die. Just my early thoughts after reviewing the budget.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee – Elizabeth Rives

I was unable to attend this month's NCAC meeting, but I got the following excellent report from my neighbor, Randy Swart, who is our primary neighborhood rep (I am an alternate to the NCAC):

"The meeting had two items. Emma Kiendl of Arlington County talked about the PLACE initiative that is continuing this year. It is an attempt to improve citizen interaction with the County. Among other things, County staff presenting to civic groups will specify what input they are looking for, and what elements of a project or program could really be changed after citizen input vs. what is already decided. They will also provide feedback after meetings on what happened to citizen input. The initiative has many other elements, and Board Member Mary Hynes is continuing to hold meetings for public comment on Monday nights. The schedule is on the web site.

Fairlington-Shirlington presented its Neighborhood Conservation Plan, with considerable discussion of trees. They value their trees highly as a characteristic of the neighborhood. Individual condo associations provide for their own tree pruning, sometimes including County street trees if they don't think the County is pruning often enough. Following a big local wind event in 2010 the County provided many trees (thousands?) for replanting on private property to restore the many trees lost in the storm. NCAC approved their plan unanimously."

Columbia Pike Form Based Code Advisory Working Group – Steve Campbell

The meetings in February of FBC AWG were cancelled (two were scheduled). The next meeting is March 5 to present the draft of the Form-Based Code for the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Area Plan, along with drafts of GLUP and Master Transportation Plan amendments. These drafts have just been put online.

The link to the plan drafts follow below. I have gone through these plan drafts, and there is some very pleasurable reading. A few things jump out:

- There are a number of improvements, probably thanks in good part to Karen, Vincent/DPR, and DES. The section of most interest to UFC would be pages 41-51 (PDF pp. #47-57) of the

FBC Neighborhoods draft, in the section "Urban Space Standards".

- Some plan improvements: 1) soil minimum surface area for each isolated tree has been increased from 60 sq. ft. to 110 sq. ft.; 2) the minimum soil area dimension is now 6 ft. up from 5 ft. previously 3) there is now language mentioning 'connected soil areas' using bridged slabs, structured soils, etc. to foster "vital and long-lived street trees"; 4) the County Urban Forester will determine the tree species on a particular street; 5) the tree species list has been improved; 6) the property owner is required to maintain the portion of the street space between his building line and the curb; 7) any on-grade 'private open area' of 800 sq. ft.+ will require a tree to be planted; 8) planting of invasive species will not be permitted, even on private lots; 8) there is specific language that undeveloped, preserved natural areas will conform to the standards of the UF Master Plan, and the NRMP; 9) mini-parks and neighborhood parks will have a minimum of 50% pervious surface.

- None of the street sections have changed since UFC reviewed them about 9 months ago, which is mostly good; however there is still no specified width for the median on the 130' overall/72' curb-to-curb street section, and some of the dooryards are too narrow.

- I see no mention of required soil depth, but that may be around the corner (thanks to the efforts of the Interdepartmental Staff Working Group Jamie discusses in the January minutes (along with Karen , Caroline and Scott)).

IN SUM, THIS HELPS TAKE THE EDGE OFF THE TERRIBLE BUDGET NEWS!!

THE LINK TO THE PLAN DRAFTS (FBC, GLUP, and MTP) follows-

<http://www.columbiapikeva.us/revitalization-story/neighborhoods-area-plan/>
(Click on "Read More..." under the Planning & Zoning Tools heading)

The final Neighborhoods Area Plan is also posted and it will be made available once copies are ready next week.