

**Urban Forestry Commission
January 22, 2015
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Dean Amel
Nora Palmatier
Ed Hilz
Caroline Haynes
Elisha Rubin
Per Midboe
Phil Klingelhofer
Paul Campanella
Karen Kumm Morris

State and County Staff

Kurt Louis, DPR
Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Vincent Verweij, DPR
Rachel Jackson, DPR
Jim Meikle, APS

Guests

Hugh Robinson, Tree Steward
Tim Palmieri

Public Comment – There was no public comment. Commission members welcomed Phil Klingelhofer as a new UFC member. Mr. Klingelhofer was appointed as the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee representative to the Urban Forestry Commission by the County Board its December 17, 2014 recessed meeting.

Discussions with Parks and Natural Resources Division Chief, Kurt Louis

Kurt Louis, newly appointed Division Chief to DPR's Parks and Natural Resources (PNR) Division, thanked commission members for their efforts and invited them to share comments and input. Mr. Louis noted that he has worked for Arlington County for 26 years in a variety of capacities. Other than serving for one year as an interim division chief for the Department of Environmental Service's Solid Waste Division, Mr. Louis has served his entire career with Arlington County in the Parks Department.

Nora Palmatier noted that she has served as a volunteer for many years. She complemented County staff who support volunteer efforts, and enjoys working with staff on volunteer work days. She would like to work with staff to identify and implement additional projects so that volunteer resources can be more efficiently used. Caroline Haynes agreed with Ms. Palmatier's input.

Dean Amel asked Kurt Louis what his involvement will be with the County's new Community Facilities Study, which is replacing the Public Land for Public Good (PLPG) initiative. Mr. Louis responded that such initiatives typically involve a staff core team, and that DPR/PNR will have representation on the team.

Caroline Haynes noted that residents are to be appointed tomorrow (January 23) to serve on the Facilities Study Committee. She expressed concern that County parks may not be adequately

represented on the committee, and urged the UFC to be very attentive in tracking the progress of Study efforts. She is particularly concerned about how the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) update process will mesh with the Community Facilities Study process, given the differences in the projected schedules.

Ed Hilz asked Mr. Louis what PNR's plans are for hiring a replacement for Mary Pierce, who had been coordinating PNR's street tree planting program, but recently retired. Mr. Hilz added that Ms. Pierce worked very effectively with the community on tree planting efforts. Mr. Louis responded that Ms. Pierce elected to participate in an early retirement program which is designed to reduce County spending, and prohibits filling vacated positions for 12 months. Tree planting responsibilities will be handled during the interim by existing staff members Patrick Wegeng and Lois Barb.

Mr. Hilz also advocated for additional opportunities for partnerships between Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools (APS). Such partnerships will be especially beneficial as new schools are being designed and built. He noted that, in the past, DPR would often assist APS with tree care and preservation needs, including help with watering trees and providing advice for tree preservation and maintenance. Mr. Hilz asked whether there will be additional efforts to collaborate and share resources so that work can be performed more efficiently.

County staff (Kurt Louis and Jamie Bartalon) as well as APS staff (Jim Meikle) noted that collaboration between DPR and APS has increased during recent years. In addition to DPR's Urban Forestry staff reviewing design/construction plans and providing recommendations to help preserve trees, DPR has also collaborated with APS on watering newly planted trees. Such efforts will continue within the limits that can be provided with current resources.

Commission members thanked Mr. Louis for attending the UFC meeting and considering their input.

Approval of 2014 UFC Annual Report and 2015 Work Plan

Commission members discussed drafts of the 2014 UFC Annual Report and the 2015 Work Plan. No substantive changes were suggested to the draft Annual Report. A statement that the UFC will participate in Arlington's proposed comprehensive study for the location of public facilities was added to the 2015 Work Plan. Caroline Haynes introduced a motion to approve both draft documents with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Nora Palmatier and approved by the commission. Dean Amel will send final documents to Jamie Bartalon for distribution to the County Board. Copies will also be sent to UFC members.

Comments on VA Dept. of Agriculture's Proposed Noxious Weeds Regulations

Dean Amel summarized past attempts to increase the regulation and control of invasive plants in Virginia, through both legislative and regulatory processes. Delegate Patrick Hope began to introduce legislation to more strictly regulate the sales of invasive plants in Virginia, but agreed

to withdraw proposed legislation pending the results of an attempt by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to administratively enact more comprehensive regulations.

In September, 2013, the UFC submitted comments to VDACS stating that the regulations proposed at that time fall short of providing the necessary tools for meaningful progress toward slowing the spread of invasive species. At that time, the UFC also recommended that the proposed regulations be redrafted to include a more comprehensive list of non-native invasive species based upon Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) guidelines, and to include meaningful enforcement mechanisms.

Jamie Bartalon summarized comments recently submitted by DPR on VDACS's current regulatory proposal for enforcement of Virginia's Noxious Weeds Law. VDACS is accepting comments on their most recent regulatory proposal until January 28.

DPR's comments again urge VDACS to utilize Virginia DCR's most current list of *Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia* as the basis for determining inclusion of species on the Noxious Weeds list. DPR also urged VDACS to establish a two tier system for addressing the sales of known invasive plants.

DPR recommended that species classified as highly or moderately invasive on the DCR list that are not currently in commercial production in Virginia should be placed in "Tier 1", and their sales and movement should be forbidden. Similarly classified species that are currently in commercial production in Virginia should be placed in "Tier 2", and their sales should be phased out as growers begin to produce alternative plants for sale. DPR also recommended that plants listed in Tier 2 should be labelled as "invasive" during the time that they are still permitted to be sold.

The commission agreed that it will also submit comments to VDACS, urging it to enact stricter regulations for the sale and control of invasive plants. Dean Amel will use the September 2013 UFC letter to VDACS as the basis for current comments. He will circulate a draft letter for commission member review before submitting final comments on behalf of the UFC.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the December 18, 2014 UFC meeting were approved with one typographical correction.

Staff Reports

- Jamie Bartalon reported that House Bill #2101, introduced by Delegate Keam, would require VDOT to adhere to any tree replacement policy adopted by the locality in which a VDOT highway construction project is located.

- Jamie Bartalon announced that a Four Mile Run Joint Task Force meeting will be held on February 4, 7 pm, in the Parks Operations Building Conference Center. The meeting will include updates on Arlington and Alexandria plans for Four Mile Run restoration efforts.
- Rachel Jackson reported that the sewer line repair project at Fairlington Community Center has been completed. Two trees needed to be removed for the project. They will be replaced according to Arlington County Tree Replacement Guidelines.
- Ms. Jackson reported that the County Board agenda for January 24 includes a Request to Advertise (RTA) for the designation of two specimen trees on private property through the County's Tree Preservation Ordinance.
- Vincent Verweij reported that he is working with DES staff on a preliminary survey of trees within stream restoration projects planned for Donaldson Run, Windy Run and Four Mile Run.
- Mr. Verweij reported that he has walked the area surrounding the Washington Boulevard trail project to identify potential planting areas for replacement trees.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – No report. The Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group did not meet.

Park and Recreation Commission – No report. The Park and Recreation Commission did not meet.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris' Planning Activities report is attached. The following items were also discussed:

- Ms. Kumm Morris announced that she has resigned from the Planning Commission but will continue to serve on the UFC. She will also serve as the primary UFC representative on the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC).
- In December, the Planning Commission recommended that the County Board should discontinue the Draft Public Land Site Evaluation Guidelines and organize a broader community process. The Public Land for Public Good initiative will be replaced with a comprehensive Community Facilities Study. The County Board is to appoint a Facilities Study Committee on January 23. The committee will undertake a community process to develop criteria for siting public facilities. Ms. Kumm Morris reported that she was informed by County Board Chairman Mary Hynes that the UFC will have a role in the process through representation on a Resident Forum.
- Ms. Kumm Morris reported that preliminary staff recommendations for the Courthouse Square Planning and Urban Design Study include the preservation of the Mother's Tree and the Soldier's Tree.

- The Site Plan for 2025 Clarendon Boulevard (the Wendy's location) will be heard by the County Board in February. Staff has accepted a proposal for building extensions over public sidewalks. The staff recommendation will stress that permitting the overhang is due to the narrowness of the site, and is not to be considered as a precedent for future projects.
- Staff is expected to release a draft Rosslyn Sector Plan Addendum in February. The UFC has advocated for a goal of 17% tree canopy coverage (minimum), as was set for Crystal City.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz's Public Facilities Review Committee report is attached. One highlight of the report is the elimination of a proposed emergency access road through Fort Reynolds Park to serve the expanded Abingdon Elementary School. A tree inventory for the school expansion is in progress.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – No report.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier's Tree Steward report is attached.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier reported that 163 trees were planted during the fall and 31 will be planted this spring through the Tree Canopy Fund Grant Program. Unless additional contributions from developers are received, the Tree Canopy Fund may only contain enough money for planting about 100 trees in fall 2015. Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) director Elenor Hodges has suggested that, due to limited funding, pre-applications for the upcoming cycle may be screened and prioritized before applicants are notified whether to submit a full application. The UFC supported this approach, with applications from areas having relatively low tree canopy coverage receiving the highest priority. The UFC and Tree Stewards are again willing to assist with outreach and education to recruit and educate applicants. DPR Urban Foresters Vincent Verweij and Rachel Jackson will also assist with reviewing the list of trees offered through the program, eliminating some that are particularly expensive, difficult to obtain, or otherwise not as desirable.

Thomas Jefferson Working Group – Nora Palmatier's Thomas Jefferson Working Group Report is attached. Ms. Palmatier's summary, commission discussion, and recommendations for a UFC letter are summarized under "New Business".

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – Phil Klingelhofer's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee report is attached. Mr. Klingelhofer added that DES Engineering Bureau Chief, Ramzi Awwad, is implementing a number of process improvements within the bureau. He also noted that Caroline Haynes presented a proposal from the Bluemont Civic Association to name a section of wooded parkland, "Mary Carlin Park Woods at Bluemont Park".

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier circulated the agenda for the next Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable, "Preserving Mature Trees", to be held on February 26, in Herndon. UFC member Scott Brinitzer and DPR Urban Forester Vincent Verweij are both participating as speakers/panelists at the event.

Virginia Department of Forestry – No report.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Jim Meikle announced that a community meeting will be held on February 2, to discuss plans for an ADA-compliant pathway to Ashlawn Elementary School.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – No report.

New Business:

Thomas Jefferson Work Group (TJWG) Update – Nora Palmatier

Nora Palmatier reported that the Thomas Jefferson Working Group (TJWG) will present their site evaluation report to the County Board on Saturday, January 24. The County Board will take comments on the report at that time. Although the work group voted that a new elementary school “could” be built on Thomas Jefferson Park property, the work group did not vote on whether a new school “should” be built on the property.

Ms. Palmatier noted that a proposal to locate the new elementary school on the site of a current parking lot on Thomas Jefferson Park grounds would have minimal impacts to trees. Conversely, the option of expanding existing buildings on the grounds of Randolph and Barcroft Elementary Schools would impact more trees. She provided a draft letter for UFC consideration, in support of locating a new elementary school on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson Park, provided that it is located on the paved parking lot in the northwest section of the park.

Dean Amel commented that UFC support for building a new school on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson Park should be contingent upon the inclusion of structured parking to reduce impacts to trees and open space, as well as locating the new school on the site of the current parking lot. Caroline Haynes stressed that Mr. Amel’s points need to be made explicit if the UFC agrees to submit a letter of support for the new school.

Karen Kumm Morris asked whether it is certain that the alternative school expansions would impact more trees and greenspace than a new building at Thomas Jefferson. Jim Meikle (APS) confirmed that there would be more impacts to trees and greenspace associated with school expansions at Randolph and Barcroft. He also noted that the two expansions would not yield as many “seats” as building a new school on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson.

Caroline Haynes added that there are many issues that complicate the decision on whether to allow a school to be built on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson Park. She noted that given the timing of the report, the Park and Recreation Commission had not met to develop a consensus position among members. She also recommended that the option of purchasing land for a new school should be a consideration expressed in any comments that the UFC chooses to submit.

Ms. Haynes stressed that it is important that any letter submitted by the UFC should make it very clear that there is a real cost/loss associated with using parkland to build a new school.

Karen Kumm Morris commented that a letter from the UFC supporting the construction of a new school on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson Park must clearly state that such support is based solely on tree preservation, not other issues.

Dean Amel will revise Ms. Palmatier's draft letter of support for locating a new elementary school on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson Park, to incorporate UFC member recommendations.

Draft Letter on Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study

Dean Amel announced that he will incorporate comments received from Steve Campbell into a revised version of a draft UFC letter on the West Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS). Other UFC members were also invited to submit comments on the draft letter.

Karen Kumm Morris noted that a WRAPS workgroup meeting is scheduled for January 28. Another meeting is to be held in February, with a Country Board work session anticipated in March.

Attachments to January 22, 2015 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

Arlington County Community Facilities Study, 2015

- Mary Hynes announced on January 1, 2015 that the County would undertake a comprehensive plan for future public facilities in response to the significant opposition voiced over the Public Land for Public Good initiative.
- Mary Hynes and John Vihstadt will co-lead a task force to assess needs, develop a framework for siting and financing public facilities.
- CB will adopt charge and appoint study committee this Friday, Jan. 23. UFC will be asked to appoint a point person for the process and participate in a resident forum.
- The PSMP, an element of the Comp Plan, will not be integrated with the Comprehensive Facilities Study. Open space has specifically been removed from the Facilities Study in order for the PSMP to move forward focused on the issues around public recreation and open space needs.

Items Heard by Planning Commission in December 2014

400 Army Navy Drive – SP Amendment #2, Initially Scheduled for CB in Dec 2015

- Approved by Planning Commission, but CM deferred to CB's January, 2015 public hearing,
- Located in Crystal City, along Army Navy Drive at S. Eads Street
- 458 residential units, this is a redevelopment of an existing office building with below grade parking. All open space is up on the roof top.
- Street trees on Army Navy Drive street frontage with full Sector Plan width of 18 feet.
- Old S. Eads Street is being developed as a private, pedestrian oriented street with small trees. SPRC comments requested taller growing, canopy trees. Applicant said that they would consider this if the soil volume can sustain larger trees. The sidewalk and street trees are over the existing underground parking.

Courthouse Square Planning and Urban Design Study – Draft Framework Plan

- Staff presented their preliminary recommendations calling for preservation the existing mature memorial trees along 15th Street among other things.
- PC had a range of comments, concerns over the process and the need for additional studies, lack of civic character (the central open space had private and public buildings defining the urban space). Some PC members expressed an interest in shifting the proposed Govt. Building into the area shown for a mixed use civic center to make a stronger sense of government versus cultural activities. PC was not unanimous in their positions on open space, and building locations.
- PC comments were transmitted to the CB without a vote.
- Schedule TBD.

Items before the Planning Commission in January, 2015

2025 Clarendon Blvd. (Wendy's)– SP#435, scheduled for PC and CB in Feb, 2015

- Staff will accept the building extension over the public sidewalk due to the narrowness of the site. Site is located in Courthouse Square, between Wilson and Clarendon Blvds.
- Staff will not consider this a precedent and will make statements in the record to this effect.
- Street trees species have been selected for columnar characteristics. Applicant has chosen a columnar cultivar form of Sweetgum. To be spaced every 20 -25 feet, tight spacing in order to get some continuous canopy and shade.
- **UFC is on record opposing building extensions for other projects**, 650 N. Glebe Road across from Ballston Mall, and Clean Technology along Wilson Blvd. in Courthouse Square Metro area.
- **UFC has sent letter expressing concern over the building extension and the problematic precedent that it might create for street trees.**

Rosslyn Plaza – PDSP, SP #422, No SPRC or PC public hearing scheduled yet.

- 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.
- Very controversial due to lack of street grid, nature of urban open space, building heights
- Proposed urban tree plans along all street frontages and within open spaces over structure. Significant amount of tree plantings with over 1,000 CF of soil for trees.
- Awaiting applicant's response to Dec. SPRC. No more SPRC sessions are currently scheduled.

New Site Plan Applications (Accepted but not yet scheduled for SPRC)

223 23rd Street (Crystal Plaza 5, Block M)– SPRC review TBD

- Located at the corner of Crystal Drive and 23rd Street, Crystal City
- Developer is Vernado
- Proposes the redevelopment of an existing office building with 353 new residential uses and a new 658,360 SF office building.
- Issues with compliance with Crystal City Sector Plan's retail recommendations, land use locations and open space.
- Redevelopment of 23rd Street with a center transit lanes eliminates existing park space with a double row of London Plane trees unfortunately, with little new canopy trees to replace the lost.

Preliminary Site Plans not yet accepted by County Manager

672 Flats, 672 N. Glebe Road – RPC#13-018-009, -012, -013, -016, -017.

- Located across from Ballston Mall just north of Carlin Springs Road.
- Developer is Penrose. Submitted as Ballston Acquisition Company LLC
- 178 residential units, with ground floor retail, 1,388 SF along Glebe Road.

Ballston Center 4100 Wilson Blvd. – RPC#14-059-028

- Redevelopment of existing mall while retaining the existing parking garage, ice rink and office building.
- Developer is Forest City, Washington DC.
- Proposes 393 apartments, new 50,800 SF retail configured as main street retail, opening up the mall.
- New streetscape along Wilson Blvd.

Ballston Oak Townhouses – 1124 -1138 N. Stuart Street

- Located south of Washington Blvd in Ballston.
- Developer is Ballston Acquisition.
- Proposal for 16, 4 story townhouses in two buildings.
- Requesting modifications to use, setbacks and coverage.
- Appears to impact significant existing trees.

Long Range Planning Activities

Pentagon Central – PDSP – Heard at LRPC on Dec. 18, 2014

- Located in Pentagon City, Costco site, entire block, existing 325,300 SF retail.
- Currently approved PDSP. Applicant seeks modifications to Phase 1 for 480,000 SF office, 33,495 SF additional retail
- Modifications requested: Move Residential into Phase I, reduce hotel rooms, revise street network, and modify building heights, open space locations and block configurations.
- Developer is PL Pentagon LLC.

Rosslyn Sector Plan Addendum – Realize Rosslyn

- Staff has completed the subcommittee’s work on Realize Rosslyn.
- Next steps are to publish Staff Draft in February. Hold an Open House for public comments in March and RTA in May. Targets County Board approval in June, 2015.
- Building Heights and Density were discussed in Dec., 2014. New concept to create a series of Peaks and Valleys that maintains clear view corridors from the public viewing platform (as opposed to a tent stepping down from Central Place)
- 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**

- **Throughout process, UFC has promoted 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) because this affects space for street trees and greater soil volume than current County Standard because there's no break out space for the roots to find.

Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS)

- Planning for a multi-story middle school, a new fire station, affordable housing and open space. Challenging program for a small site. APS has announced moving the HB Woodland program to the Wilson Site.
- Public Workshop on Nov. 8, 2014 showed several proposals by property owners (Penzance, APAH, and APS) for discussion. No decisions on final recommendations yet.
- Next public working group meetings are Jan. 28, and Feb 4.
- CB Work Session to be scheduled for March, 2015

Items to be heard by County Board on January 24, 2015

Thomas Jefferson Working Group Report

- TJ Working Group generally finds that a new elementary school could be located as a multi-story structure on the west side of the Thomas Jefferson school.
- The group is divided as to whether a new school should be built at Jefferson immediately given the County's new initiative to conduct a more comprehensive study of public facilities and open space.
- If the project moves forward, the working group identified a number of site-specific guidelines, conditions and design principles to ensure that development on TJ will be done in a manner that is environmentally sensitive and compatible with the surrounding community.

400 Army Navy Drive – SP Amendment #2

- Recommended for approval by CM.
- Planning, Transportation and Housing Commissions all have recommended approval.

Public Facilities Review Committee – Ed Hilz

On January 21, the PFRC held its fourth meeting regarding the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School. Vincent Verweij was also in attendance.

The PFRC website is experiencing some problems so the agenda and the report for the Jan 21 meeting have not been posted but are attached.

In my PFRC report for the Dec 18 UFC meeting, I indicated that I would let you know when the PowerPoint presentations that were made at the Dec 17 PFRC meeting on the Transportation Study by the Toole Design Group, the transportation and traffic consultants, and Hord, Coplan, Macht, the building design consultants. The following is a link to those presentations:

<http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/105/121614%20Abingdon%20Transportation%20Study.pdf>

Emergency Access from 31st Street

On page one, the Report states that the proposed emergency access to the back to the school from 31st Street that would impact the trees in Fort Reynolds Park has been eliminated. It has been determined that emergency access to the back of the school can be provided by removing a small section of the building and creating a driveway that goes along the south side of the building.

Tree Inventory

The APS Consulting Arborist from Davey Trees presented an overview of the trees on the property. Vincent walked the site with him but has not seen the tree inventory. The Priority #1 trees would not be affected by the two building conceptual designs being considered. Some of the Priority #2 trees will be removed. Vincent thought that five of the seven community trees (commemorating Fairlington's seven decennial anniversaries) could be transplanted. The trees that were planted a couple of years ago to replace the ones that were removed to locate a classroom trailer in the back of the building could also be transplanted to make room for the emergency access driveway. A row of white pine trees adjacent to the parking lot will be removed for the expansion of the parking lot. APS will provide the Tree Inventory to the PFRC by Jan 30. I will share it with the UFC when it is available. The specific trees that will be removed will not be known until after a conceptual building design is selected.

Car Circulation for Picking-up and Dropping-off Students

Much discussion was devoted to the two traffic flow options for the pick-up/drop-off of students by parents. One had the queue line for the cars looping around the perimeter of the play field where DPR schedules some soccer activities. This "Field Loop" option had the cars lining up near some of the Fairlington townhouses. The other one, the "Lot Loop" option, had the car line snake through the enlarged parking lot. A straw poll of the PFRC almost unanimously supported the parking lot option.

Conceptual Building Designs

The conceptual building designs have been narrowed down to two. Option B-1 keeps the cafeteria in the front and an enlarged gym in the back of the building. Option C-1 moves the cafeteria to the back adjacent to the playground and a new gym is added to the front of the building on part of the existing parking lot. In both designs, a 3-story classroom addition would be built at one corner in the back. See pages 2, 3, 8, and 10 of the Report for visual representations of the two options. Vincent and the consulting arborist agreed that the two designs would have about the same impact on the existing trees. However, Vincent expressed concerns about how the construction of the gym and the classroom addition would impact the adjacent trees. The two conceptual building designs will be further discussed at the next PFRC meeting on Feb 4.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier

<p>53 Tree Stewards reported over 3100 Volunteer Hours of Service We educated 3500 people and cared for 3760 trees</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Education Activities</p> <p>We provided tree care information to residents at public events during 2014 through tree information tables at Arlington Central Library, Park Fairfax Native Plant Sale, Alexandria Earth Day, Farmers Markets at Arlington Courthouse, Westover and Alexandria Del Ray. At the Arlington Home Improvement Show builders and attendees received information on protecting trees during construction.</p> <p>Invasive Plant Removals were led by Tree Stewards in Alexandria and Arlington. Invasive removal at the Nauck woods in Arlington was begun.</p> <p>Individual Volunteering occurred with Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Falls Church to prune and care for street and park trees.</p> <p>Urban Forestry Commissions in both Arlington & Falls Church include Tree Stewards among their members</p> <p>50 Tree ID Signs were installed at a public library and three local parks for public education and future tree walks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Increasing the Tree Canopy</p> <p>Tree Stewards coordinated the successful distribution of 337 tree whips in Arlington. A grant from CSX for Alexandria allowed us to provide 130 native trees to homeowners.</p> <p>TreeStewards helped homeowners select the right trees to request from the Arlington Tree Canopy Fund and 350 trees were planted.</p> <p>Under guidance of the Arlington County Forester, we surveyed 200 tree grates in the urban corridor and noted those impacting tree health.</p> <p>Using a grant from TD Bank, trees planted last year by TreeStewards in Tarleton Park, Alexandria received weekly watering.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Continuing Education Programs</p> <p>We improved our knowledge of tree care through advanced training for members that covered diseases and pests, structured pruning, and participation in the Quarterly Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtables on climate changes impact on trees.</p>

Thomas Jefferson Working Group – Nora Palmatier

The TJ Working Group submitted the final report to the County Board and it is available at <http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2015/01/TJWG-Final-Report-011615.pdf>

Chair Carrie Johnson deliberately did not hold a vote of “build at TJ or don’t build”. Quoting from the report:

- The group generally agrees that a new school could physically fit on the western side of the Jefferson site, if it is a multi-story building with a compact footprint and structured parking capped by green play areas, and if it is governed by specific provisions to minimize harm to TJ Park, existing community resources and activities, and the neighborhood.
- The group is divided as to whether a new school should be built at Jefferson immediately. Arguments for both positions are set forth in our report. We urge readers to consider them all.

My view is that building a new elementary school on the parking lot of the northwest corner would impact far fewer trees and less open space than building additions at two elementary schools (Barcroft and Randolph). The students are coming and even if there is no construction anyplace, many more trailers would be shoe horned onto school grounds which takes down trees and removes fields and playgrounds. We heard this message continuously from the schools staff: building will start this spring at either TJ if given permission or at the other sites which do not require permission from the county.

I therefore propose UFC send a letter to the county board and that it:

- 1) Encourage building an elementary school in the northwest corner parking lot that is multi-story with a compact footprint, include structured parking capped by a green play space. (This is Scheme 2 from architects drawings)
- 2) Protect the eastern side of TJ Park with its forested areas
- 3) Recognize that open space is so valuable in Arlington that structured parking/underground parking and multi storied schools have to occur
- 4) Should not set a precedent for removing park land for building. There was a great discussion on this topic with all in agreement that open green space should not be removed from public use – I and others argue that taking the paved parking lot of TJ is better than removing green space at the other elementary schools, and some argue that paved land was still park and set a bad example.

If approved, I'll draft a letter and attend the Feb. 24 Board meeting where this will be heard.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee – Phil Klingelhofer

On January 8, the NCAC held its first meeting of the year. Actions taken are described below:

1) Naming of park parcel

Carolyn Haynes presented a proposal from Bluemont Civic Association to formally name a wooded park tract, bounded by Carlin Springs Rd., N. Kensington Rd., and the Bluemont Junction Trail as “Mary Carlin Park Woods at Bluemont Park” after the important role of the Carlin family in Arlington history and Mary Carlin’s home across Carlin Springs Road for almost a century. After some discussion about whether the tract was technically part of Bluemont Park or part of Bluemont Junction Park, the NCAC voted unanimously to support the new name, with the caveat that it could be called “Mary Carlin Park Woods at Bluemont Junction Park” if research indicated that to be most appropriate.

2) Cherrydale NC Plan presentation

The Cherrydale Civic Association presented its updated Neighborhood Conservation Plan and showed a PowerPoint. The NCAC voted unanimously to recommend its approval by the County Board. The plan can be reviewed at: <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation-advisory-committee/>

3) DES Engineering Bureau presentation

Ramzi Awwad, Engineering Bureau Chief, made a presentation on a) the lifecycle of an NC project, and b) changes he is implementing, including a comprehensive Engineering Bureau process evaluation and a number of process and training improvements. The steps to complete an NC Project include:

- a) land survey (preliminary concept)
- b) preliminary engineering (feasibility analysis, Board voting, and funding)
- c) 60% design (drainage, roadway design, and utility conflicts)
- d) 90% design (stormwater, ramps, traffic control plans)
- e) permits and utility design
- f) underground utility reallocation (gas and water)
- g) construction
- h) overhead utility reallocation (Dominion, Verizon, and Comcast)

4) Establishment of sub-group to review NCAC rules

Chairman Bill Braswell announced that he had established a subgroup to review the rules for ranking proposed NC projects and evaluating them for funding.