

**Urban Forestry Commission  
September 22, 2016  
Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Nora Palmatier  
Caroline Haynes  
Steve Campbell  
Dean Amel  
Paul Campanella  
Phil Klingelhofer  
Scott Brinitzer  
Elisha Sigmon Rubin

**Absent**

Mikaila Milton  
Per (David) Midboe  
Ed Hilz  
Alex Sanders (E2C2)

**County and State Staff**

Vincent Verweij, DPR  
Jim McGlone, VDOF

**Guests**

Brian Emmons  
David Howell

**Public Comment**

No public comments.

**Discussion on Comparison of Fairfax/Arlington tree preservation – clarifying activities**

The following topics were discussed:

- It appears that there is no language about subcommittees or meeting with non-commission members in the Advisory Group Handbook.
- Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) volunteered to organize meetings and outreach for advocacy.
- Board member Garvey has expressed interest in getting involved. She has also expressed keeping the language consistent with surrounding jurisdictions.
- The County Ombudsman is getting 2-3 concerns about tree preservation and development every month.
- Fairfax County has expressed interest in working with Arlington to streamline language.

Action Taken:

- Nora Palmatier requests that county staff set up meeting between UFC and staff to better understand existing enabling legislation and next steps for implementing in Arlington.

**Conservation easements**

The following topics were discussed:

- Staff has had preliminary conversations with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) about small acreage easements that may allow property owners to conserve canopy while leaving the lot still developable.
- UFC concerned that NVCT is moving its efforts away from Arlington
- Arlington does pay to partially fund NVCT and should get some benefit.

No Action Item

### **Tree Canopy Fund – Elenor Hodges, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE)**

Elenor presented the following information:

- This year's grant cycle: interest in August, applications due October 13. 67 individuals and groups applied. Roughly 200 trees. Planting in the spring. Hiring a new contractor. Proposals are due September 23. Merrifield has applied. More money was added to the fund.
- ACE would like to see the County Code amended to require to pay a small fee of \$25 for tree planting program. The rationale is that people back out at the last minute. Exceptions for financial hardships.
- Since being established in 2009, the Tree Canopy Fund has not been used for tree maintenance. Currently to qualify for maintenance funds, the tree has to be a champion tree, and protected through the ordinance. Currently, only the two white ash are proposed to be treated.

The following topics were discussed:

- Change to code will have to go in front of the County Board, possibly November.
- Limit maintenance funds to privately-owned champion and notable trees.
- No way to predict future funding and there may not always be money to do maintenance funds.
- Limit the availability of maintenance to only when the Tree Canopy Fund is funded to a certain level.
- Notable and champion trees would be a limited enough pool for maintenance. Specimen trees should still be included, but the trees would not have to be specimen trees.
- Could the maintenance funding be a 50/50 matching grant with the owner.
- ACE will set up a meeting for review of current applications for spring planting.

Action Taken:

- Nora Palmatier requests that county staff meet with Elenor Hodges to mock up the language of the modifying the Tree Canopy Fund portion of the code to reflect paying a small fee of \$25 dollars for tree planting program and to modify maintenance. Also plan on submitting for Board Approval in November.

### **Letters for Review**

Steve Campbell provided 2 letters commenting on the Rosslyn Highlands Park project impact, and the siting of the fire station. The letters were discussed, and submitted with edits to Jamie Bartalon for submission to the County Board. The County Board expects to make a decision on this project on September 24, 2016. The commission supports not putting the fire house in the park.

Action Taken:

- Nora Palmatier requests that staff sends letters on behalf of the UFC to County Board.

## **Approval of July Minutes**

UFC requests staff to rewrite minutes to be more concise and focus on action points primarily.

Action Taken:

- Board did not approve July minutes and requests rewrite from staff.

## **Staff Reports**

**Vincent Verweij provided the following updates in an email prior to the meeting:**

Admin reg 4.3 (tree planting on public land):

This administrative regulation, requiring significant improvements in planting standards and soil volumes, has been submitted to Parks leadership, and hope to have this looked at by the County Manager's office this year. This will be a significant improvement to our policies. Karen Kumm-Morris was a great supporter for this improvement, and I want to specifically thank her for her support and the push to get this through.

Schools:

Thomas Jefferson School: I attended the PFRC for this project. It doesn't involve major urban forestry aspects, but I will be asking for appropriate soil volumes for trees in the streetscape, as well as on the roof of the garage. An attempt to preserve more screening trees on the north side of the project was not successful. There were too many conflicts on site.

Stratford: I continue to work with the designer on tree replacement. So far, it looks like they will be able to meet their replacement tree counts on site.

Wilson: Continuing to work with the designer to improve tree planting on site.

DES:

Four Mile Run Stream restoration: This started last week with invasive plant control. Trees will be removed in the next few weeks. It will look quite bare for a while, but the project will be replanting on site.

Windy Run stream restoration: This project will be removing some trees at windy run (off Military Rd), to restore the floodplain. I am working with staff to find appropriate native trees that have shown to work well on the Donaldson Run project.

11<sup>th</sup> St Park: a small bioretention project is being installed. 2 trees will be replaced.

Champion trees:

We will be looking at several potential champion trees in the next few weeks, including several suggested by John Wingard, after notable tree designation.

iTree:

Only 21 plots left! I hope to finish this in the next few weeks, and will start processing the data afterwards.

Site plans:

I'm worried about the two white oak trees at the Gables project (3 oaks park). The project has not started, and the trees are showing decline. It goes in line with other white oak decline we've seen throughout the county. There is a chance the trees may have to be replaced. I am working with the developer, and will be leaving the trees for now, to see how they leaf out in the spring.

Projects that are finishing up are the Latitude apartments (with structural cells!), The Springs, and the Pierce/Queen apartments.

**Rachel Jackson provided the following updates in an email prior to the meeting:**

I wanted to personally let you know that I will be leaving Arlington County as of September 27th. I will not make it tonight to the meeting so I can tie up loose ends in the office and get things in order for Brian and Vincent.

I wanted to give you the updates on Park Projects and their tree statuses.

Tuckahoe Park – Fields Project

I accepted the tree planting as of 9/21/16

Quincy Park – There have been a few issues with tree protection fencing and tree planting is happening in October

Woodstock Park – is moving slowly, the tree protection measures have been installed and the only tree removal has been completed

Bluemont Baseball Field – the tree protection measures will be installed soon

Tree removals are happening in Benjamin Banneker Park and in Bluemont Park near the disc golf and pathway near the basketball court.

**Brian Keightley was absent and did not provide a staff report**

**Commission Member Reports**

**Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG)** – Caroline Haynes' NRJAG report is attached.

**Park and Recreation Commission** – Caroline Haynes' Park and Recreation Commission report is attached.

**Planning Activities** – No update this month.

**Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)** –Steve Campbell’s Wilson School report is attached.

**Rosslyn Highlands Park** – Steve Campbell’s report attached.

**Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2)** – Alex Sanders’ report is attached.

**Thomas Jefferson Working Group** – Vincent Verweij’s report is attached.

**Tree Stewards** – Steve Campbell’s Tree Steward Report is attached.

**Tree Canopy Fund** – Nora Palmatier’s report attached.

**Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable** – Nora’s report attached.

**Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC)** – Phil Klingelhofer’s NCAC report is attached.

**Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)** –Caroline Haynes’ PSMP report is attached.

**Four Mile Run Valley Working Group** – Nora Palmatier’s report attached.

**Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)** – Jim McGlone’s report attached

**Arlington Public Schools (APS)** – No report.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)** – Kirsten Buhl’s report attached

### **New Business**

Membership – Two recent openings on the commission. The County Board appoints members yet UFC a great opportunity to encourage Arlington residents to apply on-line

<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/advisory-group-application/>

Need UFC member to volunteer to report on planning efforts.

**Next Meeting: October 27, 2016**

## **Attachments to September, 2016 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:**

### **Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) – Caroline Haynes**

In August, Sarah Archer, Natural Resources Specialist, reported on progress within the invasive plant control program, including the increase in the number of targeted sites and partnerships with volunteers. She also reported on progress in expanding the county's native plant nursery. She focused on the need to both remove invasive plants and also to have appropriate native plants to assist in restoration of plant communities. There was no meeting in September.

### **Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) – Caroline Haynes**

Last night the PRC heard a presentation on the potential health implications of synthetic fields. To date, there is no conclusive evidence that synthetic fields are linked to increased incidences of cancer. The EPA announced recently that it will be putting together a report on this issue. We also received a presentation on the Transfer of Development Rights as a tool for acquiring more open space and parks. This was billed as "TDR 101" to provide background on the origination of TDRs and how they have been used to date to support affordable housing, historic preservation and open space.

The PRC also approved two letters, one opposing the extent of a capital maintenance project on Bluemont Field #3 which will result in a large expansion of the footprint of the diamond field and fencing off of park space that is currently available and used for a wide range of activities. The second letter relates to the temporary location of Fire Station #10 in Rosslyn. The PRC objects to using Rhodeside Green Park or the Wilson Field, and recommends the use of the Holiday Inn site.

I realize that many on UFC attended the program on Biophilic Cities last week, sponsored by DPR, but for those who were not able to attend, I highly recommend checking out the website: <http://biophiliccities.org/>

This seems like a project that UFC may want to participate in to encourage Arlington to become a Biophilic City.

### **Planning Activities – (vacant)**

No update this month

### **Wilson School PFRC report – Steve Campbell**

I was not able to attend the 9/1 Wilson PFRC meeting. One item of interest to UFC on the agenda was discussion of where to build a temporary fire station. One of three options would be to site it on a County park, Rhodeside Green (located at the corner of Clarendon Blvd. and North

Rhodes St). If this site were the one chosen by the County Board, it would require removal of all of the trees on the site.

This all came about due to a change in how the Western Rosslyn Area (WRAPS) will be developed. Originally the project was planned to be done in two phases, in which case a new fire station could have been built while the existing one still operated. The County, APS, and the developer suddenly agreed this summer to develop most of the site in one phase, creating the need for a temporary fire station to operate for approximately 3 years.

I've attached Wilson PFRC chair Steve Sockwell's summary of the meeting's discussion, written by Steve Sockwell. To summarize, Wilson PFRC voted to recommend an alternative site for the temporary fire station (the Wilson School playing field).

However the final decision will be made by County Board at its monthly meeting this coming Saturday morning. Note- the County Manager apparently just came out with his recommendation to the County Board, which also would be to site the station on the Wilson School playing field.

For more related information click on the following link: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/fire-station-10/>

### **Stratford School PFRC report – Ed Hilz**

The Stratford PFRC did not meet in August.

### **Thomas Jefferson Working Group – Vincent Verweij**

Vincent attended the joint BLPC/PFRC meeting. Preservation of the northern screening from the site was discussed, but seems to be difficult, given the stage of the plan. No other discussion of the plan from a tree perspective was had.

### **Rosslyn Highlands Park – Steve Campbell**

Steve Campbell provided 2 letters commenting on the project impact, and the siting of the fire station. The letters were discussed, and submitted with edits to Jamie Bartalon for submission to the county board. The county board expects to make a decision on this project on September 24, 2016.

### **E2C2 – Alex Sanders**

Due to delays in the Stratford EA, E2C2 did not meet in August. We will be meeting in September on the 26th.

### **Thomas Jefferson Working Group – Vincent Verweij**

Vincent attended the joint BLPC/PFRC meeting. Preservation of the northern screening from the site was discussed, but seems to be difficult, given the stage of the plan. No other discussion of the plan from a tree perspective was had.

### **Tree Stewards – Steve Campbell**

It is a busy time of the year for Tree Stewards. In addition to staffing tree tables, removing invasive plants, and performing tree maintenance, Tree Stewards are assisting people who are applying for the Tree Canopy Fund. Tree Stewards also primarily staff the Tree Distribution, which takes place 10/15/16

Native Plant sales that Tree Stewards will be assisting with:

- Saturday, 9/24 (9-2) Northern Virginia Native Plant sale: <http://www.northernalexandrianativeplantsale.org/>
- Sunday, October 2nd (10-2) [www.earthsangha.org/](http://www.earthsangha.org/)

### **Tree Canopy Fund and Tree Distribution Program – Nora Palmatier**

Elenor Hodges of ACE will be at tonight's meeting with an update of applicants for trees and contractors. There will be a discussion on soliciting County Board to approve co-pay and how funds might be used to preserve as well as plant trees.

### **Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier**

December 8, Thursday at NVCC Loudon. Topic is working with HOAs to increase/preserve tree canopy. Presenters and specifics still in planning stage.

### **Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – Phil Klingelhofer**

On September 8, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting

Approval of Bench at Fairlington Community Center to recognize contributions of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia to Arlington County: Approved without objection.

Presentation by Steve Cover, Director, Community Planning, Housing and Development: Steve spoke about his goals to simplify and streamline the processes in the department, including 1) revised reporting requirements, 2) reduce the number of meetings (i.e. site plan review meetings), and instill a “when you can say yes, say yes, and when you must, say no” approach for all staff. He sees key opportunities for Arlington to be with 1) Courthouse Square development, 2) Four Mile Run restoration, and 3) expanded Potomac River access.

### **Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) – Caroline Haynes**



Staff and members of the POPS Advisory Group conducted additional outreach activities throughout the summer, targeting farmers markets, the Long Bridge Park Fourth of July event, the Arlington County Fair and a range of targeted focus groups.

Eight strategic directions have been developed, based on themes identified by the survey and the cumulative outreach and community input. The Advisory Group met in early August and twice in September to work through the specific recommendations associated with each of the following major strategic directions:

- Strategic Direction 2: Trails
- Strategic Direction 3: Resource Stewardship
- Strategic Direction 4: Partnerships
- Strategic Direction 5: Programs
- Strategic Direction 6: Engagement & Communications
- Strategic Direction 7: Operations and Maintenance
- Strategic Direction 8: Fiscal Sustainability

The largest category, Strategic Direction 1: Public Spaces, is expected to include a range of challenging topics including land acquisition, and standards for improving existing spaces. We plan to begin tackling these issues in October and November.

In addition, the group has begun examining the level of service for various amenities. We discussed what amenities residents might expect to have within a short distance and travel time (such as playgrounds, multi-purpose trails and un-programmed open space) versus amenities that are more likely to be a destination (such as a nature center, skate park, aquatic facility, or a rectangular or diamond ball field).

We have also discussed developing a classification system for Arlington, leading to a service approach that is amenity based, context sensitive and equitably distributed. Other topics being addressed include developing a common set of definitions for how we talk about open space and amenities and benchmarking with four other communities to provide a basis for comparison.

The County Board members were briefed last week on the progress of POPS to date.

#### **Four Mile Run Valley - Nora Palmatier**

Met last night with presentations from the working group. There is quite a wish list for sports at the Jeannie Dean Park, improved Dog Park, Arts area, etc while the owners of the concrete factory and other businesses gave their plans to not move; compromises and arguments ahead. I gave a brief overview of preserving and planting tree techniques which is attached. The entire Power Point with notes can be adapted to use with other groups and I'm happy to send – good references on last page.

#### **Virginia Department of Forestry – Jim McGlone**

Jim verbally reported on Waynesboro workshop, and Keith Cline's presentation on Chesapeake Bay Foundation recommendations for changes to the regional approach to counting trees and forestry for storm water credit. The main recommendation there will be a modification of land use for trees over turf and trees over impervious surface.

### **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – Kirsten Buhls**

Greetings from your friendly local Extension agent! In no particular order, here is all the news relating to trees that I have for you. I just delivered a program on trees and tree selection to a great crowd in Alexandria. Happy to deliver here: The presentation is 'attached' here as a google drive link.

Check out the newly revamped Virginia Big Tree Website: [VT Redesigned Website](#) story here is about the Virginia Big Tree Website. Way cool.

<http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/>

Here for your edification and delight, I have selected some upcoming events in the world of VCE educational programs on trees. Might be fun to travel to some of these.

#### **40th Anniversary - Fall Forestry & Wildlife Field Tours**

##### **October 2016**

All tours \$35\*/person

- Essex County - Oct. 7
- Lee County - Oct. 11
- Prince William County - Oct. 14
- Dinwiddie/Nottoway Counties - Oct. 20

Join fellow forest landowners and a host of natural resource professionals for a fun and exciting day in the woods learning about forest and wildlife management. These tours promote wise resource management on private woodlands. Help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of this program!

[Read about the Tours in the Richmond Times-Dispatch](#)

[On-line registration is open](#)

[Itineraries and mail-in registration](#)

For more information, contact [Jennifer Gagnon](#), 540/231-6391.

#### **Working Woods Walk**

October 23

2 - 4

[James Madison's Montpelier, Montpelier Station](#)

\$12

Explore beyond the Mansion and the lawn to the woods of Montpelier and consider society's dependence on this resource then and now. The walk through President Madison's beloved woodlands will be led by Virginia Master Naturalists on a state-of-the-art trail showcasing forest & habitat tending methods.

For more information contact Adam Downing at 540/948-6881 or [adowning@vt.edu](mailto:adowning@vt.edu).

## **Natural Hardwood Charcoal Making Demonstration**

October 29

Young Farmer's Grounds, Madison

Free

An open-house demonstration occurring at the Fall Harvest Festival at the Young Farmer's Grounds. Cooking with real charcoal and taste-testing samples with local meat!

For more information contact Adam Downing at 540/948-6881 or [adowning@vt.edu](mailto:adowning@vt.edu).

Finally, news from a MG program in Chesapeake that is helping children and adults learn more about trees. Easily replicable here.

<http://blogs.ext.vt.edu/vce-news/chesapeake-master-gardener-program-growing-a-love-of-trees/>