

**Urban Forestry Commission
June 22, 2017
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Nora Palmatier, Chair
Patricia Norland
Caroline Haynes
Steve Campbell
Edward Hilz, NCAC
Brian Keene
Evelio Rubiella
Paul Campanella
David Howell, PRC
Kimberly Fedinatz, E2C2

State and County Staff

Vincent Verweij, DPR

Guests

Dean Amel, POPS
Mary Glass

Guests, Commissioners, and Staff – Introductions and Sign-in

Public Comment

Mary Glass reiterated her concern about tree loss for the Donaldson Run stream restoration project. Ms. Glass also presented the commission with information on two projects, which have experienced tree loss. Nora Palmatier asked for a report on these projects at the next UFC meeting. Staff will investigate and report back. A potential agenda item was discussed to present the process for application, approval, and followup on Land disturbance projects.

Public Spaces Master Plan Draft – Dean Amel, Caroline Haynes

Dean Amel presented the draft Planning Our Public Spaces document. Mr. Amel highlighted the following issues on which the UFC may want to comment or provide support:

- i-Tree Eco study
- Casual use land
- Resource stewardship
- Tree maintenance
- Action plan, and the inclusion of the UFC as Potential Partners in relevant Action plan items
- Arlington Public Schools coordination
- Providing a clear path to implementation

Public and work group meetings on POPS will occur in July.

The UFC will write a letter to staff on the POPS draft by the end of July. Brian Keane volunteered to draft the letter.

2018 Legislative Priorities discussion – Nora Palmatier

Nora Palmatier discussed a meeting had with Jay Fisette, to explore more options for tree preservation.

A discussion was had about the current legislative priorities for the UFC, to suggest to the state legislature. Support was given to:

1. Exploring additional language for tree preservation through Virginia department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administrative action. John Carey volunteered.
2. Continuing invasive plant legislation pursued in previous years

Kit Norland volunteered to investigate Williamsburg, VA's tree language, as it appears to have more stringent restrictions on tree removal.

Forested Riparian Buffers – Vincent Verweij

A presentation was given by acting urban forester manager Vincent Verweij on Forested riparian buffers, and the legal and practical limitations of using riparian buffers for stormwater mitigation. A short discussion followed to clarify specific details of the practice.

Nora Palmatier asked how much pollution is reduced by one buffer. Due to the nature of every site being different, it varies greatly, but it is considered significant enough to replace engineered solutions.

Approval of May Minutes

The May minutes were approved unanimously

Staff reports

A short description of the new work order system, Cartegraph, was given at the meeting.

The following staff reports were sent to the UFC through email:

Vincent Verweij, Acting urban forest manager

Parks:

- Nelly Custis Park: I attended a public meeting discussing options for this park. Very little tree impact is expected, and the few bradford pears proposed to be removed will be replaced.

Schools:

- Wilson school received its demolition permit, and demolition is underway
- Thomas Jefferson school is likely to receive its demolition permit, and will start demolition of the parking lot soon.

DES:

- The columbia Pike multimodal project will start its installation of bus stops, as the first phase of the overall project. There is some tree impact from these, which is being explored for mitigation. To remind the commission, some of the tree replacements may be proposed for the cloverleaf at Columbia Pike and Washington Blvd.

Site plan projects:

- 4000 Fairfax Dr (known as the Carpool project) is finalizing design on their landscape plans. Tree canopy will be met by street trees within the property lines. Trees removed are low.
- A project in Rosslyn, known as the Arlington Temple site is being considered by staff. Tree impact is very low, but opportunities exist for public open space and tree planting.
- 1901 N Moore St has a preliminary filing with staff. The proposed highrise building involves interesting designs, including a wind power component, and tiered planting of trees and other plants.
- 2000 Clarendon Blvd. This project has needed some hand-holding about tree canopy requirements, and comments are still out to resolve landscape plan issues.

By-right projects

- Another subdivision application was submitted, for a large property along N Roosevelt St, near I-66 and Sycamore St. The tree impact of this project is similar to others mentioned, and staff is attempting to convince the developer to preserve more of the on-site trees.
- 701 23rd St S: an unusual commercial lot. Low tree impact, and may actually have more tree canopy after.

Permitting

- A new permitting system, with the acronym OSAPI is being discussed for implementation. This will affect forestry, hopefully in positive ways, as it provides a more streamlined and transparent approach to permit review and followup.

General:

- Staff is attending county-wide meetings on public outreach, to best develop outreach protocols for county projects.
- Urban agriculture lead, Kim Haun, worked with UF and NR staff to install a test garden on the roof of the Parks Trades building. It is not accessible for the public yet, but will serve as a test garden for urban agriculture projects.
- A champion tree bike ride will be held on July 1, as the last bike ride was cancelled due to inclement weather. See more at <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/champion-trees-bike-ride-3/>
- Staff attended a meeting on the Public Art Master Plan, to assist in providing suggestions for art projects involving sustainability.

Adam Lipera, Urban forester

Operations

- ·Continuing to review 311's, Web Submissions, and customer calls pertaining to County trees. An increasing amount of submissions from the public are being submitted (approximately 25-30 per week, at this point).
- ·Received assistance from Dominion Energy on several County trees in conflict with utilities.
- ·Performed several tree inspections in Historic Districts, per resident request. No tree removals were authorized at this time.
- ·Received a high amount of requests from the Villages, Wards, and Community Center in Fairlington for dead tree removals and crown cleans (which crews are working on now), as well as crown thinning (which I deferred to late fall/early winter).

Tree Removals

- Seeing a large number of homeowner submissions and consequently removals of street trees due to sidewalk and driveway apron damage. Some cases both sidewalk and tree needed removal and replacement. Replacement trees are being scheduled, where appropriate.
- Removing several newly planted dead street trees in the Ballston – Virginia Square – Clarendon – Courthouse corridor. These trees are all under warranty and will be replaced.
- Removing a decent amount of dead ash trees throughout the County.
- Removing several dead oak street trees around CHP.

Site Plans and Permitting

- Attending/inspecting/reviewing on average 20 preconstruction meetings, certificate of occupancy final inspections, and site plan reviews per week for single family home projects.

Projects

- Notable tree certificates were mailed to individuals who could not attend the recessed County Board meeting. Plaques are still in the process of being ordered.
- DED treatment to occur in July by RTEC.
- Attending ESF and EOC training.

Commission Member Reports

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

June meeting is next week and agenda includes reviewing POPS draft.

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes

NRJAG: Alonso Abugattas provided a report of the May 20 Arlington Bioblitz, which included 19 teams and 92 volunteers, making over 1,000 observations and identifying 451 different species (and counting as more are identified), including some not previously on record for Arlington. The discussion focused on some of the logistics, lessons learned and opportunities for future events, especially as we prepare for the update of the Natural Resources Management Plan.

NRJAG members discussed the most recent design for the Lubber Run Community Center. A letter was sent to the Public Facilities Review Committee on behalf of NRJAG members.

Planning activities (vacant)

No report

Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (Nora Palmatier)

Joint Facilities Advisory Commission draft report is out at <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/12/JFAC-Phase-2-Status-Report-DRAFT.pdf> I was very pleased to see there is significant tree buffers surrounding much of the Buck site on Quincy and the Carlin Springs site -- as the staff report the area is filled with utility easements, steep terrain and RPAs that keep development away. Do review the scenarios and make your personal comments. Not sure at this point that any of the scenarios require an UFC statement of approval/dissapproval but do review and let me know if this should be topic of discussion.

Public Facilities Review Committee – Ed Hilz

No report

Rosslyn Highlands Park – Steve Campbell

No report

Four Mile Run Valley Visioning – Nora Palmatier

Four Mile Run Working Group met with County Board who directed staff to not reduce size of dog park or limit dog's access to the stream, and to limit access of a footpath for humans.. I was very disappointed that environmental information was not presented ahead of time and sent a personal letter to Board members, stating letter was not a UFC position. Now there will be a subcommittee examining only the dog park, chaired by Caroline Haynes and UFC rep is on it. Assistance collecting and editing information on environmental issues with 500 dogs on a stream bank will be much appreciated! I've found much info on line but it needs to be succinctly put into 2 pages max. One positive during County Board meeting was that Katie Cristol asked why a 30 foot vegetation buffer was needed when she knew planting trees alone solved so many problems.... Phasing way to provide education to the Board is needed.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

Tree Canopy Fund has stopped tree planting replacements until fall; the number of trees found unacceptable this year is dismaying. ACE is working to get the list of past years recipients into Excel spreadsheets so TreeStewards and others can begin assessing how many trees from 5 years ago are still alive. All UFC members are invited to volunteer as well -- it doesn't take a lot of tree biology knowledge to determine if the tree is still present where it was planted.

Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

A roundtable will be held on Jul 13, 2017, on urban wastewood reuse.

Tree Stewards – Steve Campbell

1. To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the birth of our nation a grove of trees was planted near Rosslyn/ the Key Bridge (three trees for each of the original 13 colonies), on National Park Service managed land. This area has since been almost forgotten. The trees have died or are overgrown with invasive plants. Tree Stewards are looking into restoring the area and will be discussing the possibility of doing so with the National Park Service next week.
2. The 2017 Tree Steward Symposium, sponsored by Trees Virginia, takes place over two days next week in Richmond. It is held so that Tree Steward groups around the state can meet to network and learn from one another. There will be specific discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of social media; techniques to use to meet with decision makers to advocate for trees (such as state legislators, county/ city government officials, and homeowner association managers); discuss possible improvements to Tree Steward training; and the way to properly measure trees.

Ordinance Adjustments for Tree Preservation – Nora Palmatier

A meeting was held with County board member Jay Fiset and member of the Georgetown University Climate Center, to discuss tree preservation in Arlington County. Staff is researching the path to getting tree preservation counted for stormwater credit.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission – Phil Klingelhofer

No report

Public Spaces Master Plan

Discussed during the meeting

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Kimberly Fedinatz)

No report

Virginia Department of Forestry

No report

Arlington Public Schools – Jim Meikle

No report

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Kirsten Buhls

No report

New Business

There will be a meeting on July 19th, to discuss the future of the Four Mile Run Valley planning process.