

Urban Forestry Commission
January 25, 2018
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Nora Palmatier, Chair
Phil Klingelhofer
Evelio Rubiella
Kit Norland
Caroline Haynes
John Carey
David Howell
Paul Campanella
Sherry Frear
Brian Keane

State and County Staff

Brian Keightley, DPR Liaison
Vincent Verweij, DPR
Jim McGlone, VDOF
Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools

Guests

Washington - Lee High School Students
Jim Olds
Mary Glass
Hugh Robinson

Guests, Commissioners and Staff – Introductions and Sign-in

Public Comment

1. A group of Washington-Lee High School students, involved in environmental action at the Arlington Public Schools, attended, and took notes during the meeting. They did not provide comment.
2. Jim Olds was introduced, as a potential future UFC member
3. Mary Glass commented on the following topics:
 - a. Urging the POPS process to include more citizen input on trees
 - b. More attention to be paid to House bills regarding trees, all of which failed
 - c. When re-writing UFMP, preserve the existing language, and improve where appropriate.

1770 Crystal Drive plan

This presentation was postponed until April.

In its stead, there was a short discussion on specimen trees and notable trees.

Review of 2018 Work Plan and 2017 Annual Report

A discussion was had about the work plan and annual report. The following items were brought up:

1. Integrate American Forests recommendations on tree canopy targets. Vincent Verweij commented that these recommendations were recently rescinded, but a tree canopy target may still be appropriate.
2. Integrating Biophilic Cities
3. Looking for a Smart Growth 2.0, to integrate open space into smart growth.
4. Contacting and working with developer groups
5. Working with the budget to meet Urban Forestry needs

The work plan and annual reports were approved with minor edits.

Tour of DPR's work order system

Vincent Verweij provided an overview of the new work order system, which will allow, in the long run:

1. Better reporting on work performed on trees.
2. Opportunities to improve the tree inventory of the county, as trees are maintained and replaced
3. Efficiency of work, through a GIS-based mapping system.
4. More accurate budgeting for work

Approval of December Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously

Staff reports

A preview of the tree canopy report about to be released was given during the meeting. The report can be found on <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/trees/tree-canopy/>

There was a question about Adam Lipera's staff report on Dominion Energy's work. As this is still ongoing, more information will be provided at the next meeting.

Vincent Verweij

General:

1. Thanks to Adam Lipera for taking on my work during my absence. Nothing blew up, and all the trees are still standing.
2. Forestry staff and Park management staff attended a mock exercise for an extreme weather event. In this case, we simulated an ice storm, and the associated high level of debris and trees down that would come with this. The exercise went well, and we tested the capabilities of our Cartograph system with this scenario.
3. Forestry and natural resources met with Public Art staff to see if there are creative ways to work together on outreach for our plans, and integrating art and nature. Public art staff may be valuable when it comes to the design and outreach of the urban forest master plan and natural resources management plan.

Site plans:

1. Site plans completing their construction: 1411 Key Blvd, 2311 Wilson Blvd. Check the list I sent around for other site plan updates.
2. The Red Cross site is getting quite a bit of talk about trees. The planning commission meeting the other day had a lot of discussion on trees. I believe a UFC member is paying attention to this, but I'd be happy to discuss this, if there is interest.
3. Stafford Place is undergoing a large administrative change, which will hopefully improve the soil infrastructure of future trees. The existing trees were planting in almost nothing, and though the replacement wasn't the intent of the administrative change, it's a nice side-effect.

Parks:

1. Lubber Run Community Center is in an early design phase, and staff reviewed the plan for impact and planting. More work is needed on the design, and we will continue working on this.
2. Long Bridge Pool is getting closer to having early designs. A challenge in this project will be to find space for replacement trees, and we are exploring on-site and nearby planting opportunities

3. Oakgrove (or Oak Grove ;)) Park is finishing up. The trees will be planting in the early spring, but check out the playground, when you have a chance.
4. Nauck Town Square is being reviewed. It will have significantly more trees, though some declining oaks will have to be removed for the project.
5. Nelly Custis Park is being finalized for design. Most of the trees are being preserved, except some large Bradford pears. I am working with the landscape architect to save a large American Elm along the street, too.

DES:

1. The Columbia Pike Multimodal segment from Four Mile Run to Jefferson St is starting, and will involve some tree removal. More segments are coming, and, if you remember from the presentation, will total over 400 tree removals, and over 500 replacements.

Adam Lipera

Operations

- Continuing to review 311's, Web Submissions, and customer calls pertaining to County trees. We are receiving approximately 20 submissions per week. All requests/tasks are being worked through our new work order system, Cartegraph.
- Removing several dead oak street trees around CHP by Spring.
- 9 stumps at 600 Army Navy Drive will be ground by our contractor by Spring.
- Stumps in Rosslyn from the recent removals, per the BID, will be ground by our contractor by Spring.
- Urban Forestry, with coordination with Natural Resources and the area Park Manager, are re-distributing the pile of wood left by several trees that were cut down/fell at Lacey Woods from a 2017 Summer storm. The wood from these felled trees is being used to block off several unapproved mountain bike trails and to line several trails throughout the park.

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.
- Reviewed DES and 4.1 site plans in Vincent's absence and checked sites under construction for compliance.

Other

- Met with Dominion Energy Virginia about their proposed Strategic Underground project at Lubber Run.
- Was the staff liaison for the Tree Canopy Fund review session with ACE on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. The list of sites and trees to be planted was finalized at the meeting.

Brian Keightley

Operations

Vincent Verweij has accepted the position of Urban Forest Manager, which is effective as of January 21, 2018. I will stay on as staff liaison for the near future and will continue to attend through the UFMP process as Vincent takes over the responsibility.

Commission Member Reports (provided in advance by email unless otherwise noted)

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes

A progress report was shared with the UFC, on the implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plan.

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

The Park and Recreation commission discussed the work plan for 2018, correcting the name of Oakgrove Park to Oak Grove Park, and we had a presentation and discussion on David Howell's Biophilic Arlington paper.

Planning activities

Reed School – Nora discussed the options.

Four Mile Run WG – input provided by Caroline. An April meeting by the planner may be appropriate.

Red Cross Site – Evelio provided input. There was significant tree discussion at the Planning Commission.

Arlington hospital (John Carey) – No update.

Housing Conservation Districts (Sherry Frear) – No meetings yet

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

2 review sessions were held. Everything is in process to start planting once the trees can be dug in late February (weather dependent)

Tree Stewards – Steve Campbell

No update

Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable - to be held March 15 in Gainesville. Topic is "How do we know the trees we planted are thriving?" and Lara Roman, PhD, US NFS will be speaking. Arlington TS/MN survey of TCF will be presented. Check out Lara Roman's publications list, I'm looking forward to hearing her talk about the different communities' experiences.

<https://www.fs.fed.us/research/people/profile.php?alias=lroman>

Single Family Homes – Nora Palmatier

No update

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission – Phil Klingelhofer

On January 11, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting, with two significant items on the agenda:

Discussion / Action Items

- Bicycle Master Plan Presentation by Ritch Viola, Planning Supervisor, DES: Arlington County is in the process of updating the Bicycle Element of its Master Transportation Plan (MTP). The County Manager has appointed a working group of community members to assist County staff in outreach, draft plan review and other aspects of updating the plan. The current Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element was adopted in July 2008. While many of the goals and policies of the plan remain relevant, there have been significant changes in technologies, facilities and best practices that warrant a comprehensive update of the plan. The plan update will incorporate input from people with a wide range of abilities and backgrounds from civic and business organizations. The wealth of expertise held by County staff and community members will improve mobility, safety, comfort and convenience for bicyclists and expand its attractiveness of getting around for people of all ages and interests.

Of special interest to UFC is consideration of widening bike trails with high traffic in parks, notably the W&OD Trail which may double in width, in order to improve safety by separating bicyclists from pedestrians, which would increase impervious surface near streams and could impact trees and other vegetation.

For more information, click [here](#).

- Streetlight Technology Demonstration Presentation, Hui Wang, Transportation, Engineering and Operations (TE&O) Bureau Chief and Santosh Neupane, Streetlight Program Coordinator, DES: The County is in the process of converting all Arlington-owed streetlights to light-emitting diode (LED) technology, with approximately 85 percent of County-owned lights converted. LEDs help improve sustainability by reducing emissions and our carbon footprint. They consume 75 percent less energy and last five times longer than high-pressure sodium bulbs. These LEDs modernize our streetlight network and reduce overall maintenance and operating costs.

Arlington is planning a demonstration of several new LED streetlights from different vendors for citizen input within the next month or so.

For more information, click [here](#).

- Project Status Report For a status report on all approved NC projects, click [here](#).

Public Spaces Master Plan – Caroline Haynes

Three public outreach meetings were held in December, focusing on some of the key issues raised in public comments on the July POPS draft. Staff is compiling comments from the December POPS meetings, and the comment matrix will be posted once that is complete.

The POPS Advisory group is planning to meet twice in February, in preparation for the County Board work session in late February. Topics to be covered will likely mirror those highlighted in the December events: 1) land acquisition, 2) synthetic fields and lighting, 3) casual use spaces and 4) natural resources and trees, including the updates of the Natural Resources Management Plan and the Urban Forest Master Plan.

From that input, another draft will be developed and will be circulated to the various commissions and posted for final public comments.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission - Kimberly Fedinatz

No report

Virginia Department of Forestry – Jim McGlone

Jim is preparing for this year's Arbor Day.

Update on Spotted Lanternfly. This pest was found in Winchester, VA.

Walnut Twig Beetle was surveyed, but not found in large numbers

The DCR noxious weed tool is now available to propose listing new noxious weeds.

Bettina Ring became the Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry. Her State Forester position will be filled by Rob Farrell.

Arlington Public Schools – Jim Meikle

APS is looking forward to finding a spot for the Arbor Day planting.

New relocatables may impact trees, and tree preservation will be coordinated with staff.

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Kirsten Buhls

1. Horticulture Dayz - Two days of horticulture educational presentations in Front Royal VA. One day on turf and one day on trees. Keynote speakers include Stanton Gill University of Maryland professor of Nursery and Greenhouse Management, and Ed Gilman, University of Florida Professor Urban Trees and Landscape

Register now on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/Hort-Dayz>

2. Apple Tree Pruning and Grafting at St Andrews Church. February 10th 12:15pm at the end of a morning of educational programming to support the gardeners who grow for the food bank. Information on the entire event from 9-12pm is Spring Garden Kick off at: <https://afac.org/afac-events/afac-spring-garden-kick-off-2018>

3. Three Woody Plant Pruning classes will be offered on weekend of March 3 and 4th. Registration will be up soon on the MGNV website. Additional classes will be added as needed.

4. 2018 Sustainable Landscape Classes and Urban Agriculture are in full swing: All program information can be found on the www.MGNV.org website calendar of events.

New Business

Potential presentation by staff on Four Mile Run Valley Working Group.

Next Meeting

February 22, 2018, Courthouse Plaza – Room 311

Corrections:

In the December Minutes, during the Upton Hill regional park discussion, Steve Campbell asked for more tree islands to be added to the existing parking lot. This was unintentionally omitted from those minutes.