

**Urban Forestry Commission
January 23, 2020**

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Phil Klingelhofer
Kit Norland
Kate Donohue
Stephen Sockwell
David Howell
Nora Palmatier
Caroline Haynes
Teresa Leonardo
Noreen Hannigan
Tanja Crk
Josh Handler

County and State Staff

Vincent Verweij, DPR
David Farner, DPR
Steven Bernheisel, APS
James McGlone, VDOF
Kimberly Kalaha, CPHD
Kindra Taylor, CPHD

Guests

Nat Ames
Marjorie Signer
Mary Glass

Guests, Commissioners and Staff – Introductions and Sign-in

Public Comment

No public comment.

Zoning Regulations in Arlington County – Kimberly Kalaha and Kindra Taylor

Kimberly Kalaha presented on current zoning regulations.

Questions followed, including the following topics:

- How bonuses are given, and what the community benefit is of bonus coverage
- Coverage counting of driveways
- Amounts of exceptions granted
- How the setback distances were determined
- Clarification of what an Oriel Window is
- Clarification of distances from stormwater planters and other things
- How often the requirements are revisited
- What are the most common zoning types
- How rules are changed
- Restrictions on fence heights, regarding deer access
- What defines a hardship
- How to get on the BZA

- How zoning is broken up geographically.
- Whether reducing lot coverage would increase tree preservation
- How subdivision occurs
- How zoning could be used to increase habitat and green corridors
- How zoning could be used to create conservation easements.

It was agreed that hearing from planning staff on how to change zoning rules would be an appropriate next step.

New Deputy Division Chief – David Farner

David spoke about his background and new position, supervising the forestry unit, landscape, natural resources, nature centers, urban agriculture, and the park rangers.

Questions followed about:

- Priorities in the next few years – climate change, deer, oak decline, funding issues with nature centers, park ranger responsibilities, and urban agriculture
- How preserving mature trees ties into different sections
- Level of authority, and whether David has the authority to install, for example, mountain biking signs.
- Coordination with APS

Tree Canopy Fund Changes and ideas – Vincent Verweij

Vincent Verweij presented potential ideas for changes to the tree canopy fund, based on discussion with the Chair, EcoAction Arlington, and County staff. The changes included suggestions on tree maintenance and outreach.

The discussion included

- Limiting the size of trees to get maintenance funding. Balancing mature trees that may be in decline with trees that may be too young to need pruning.
- The need for more statistics on the history of the fund's balance.
- Adjustable rules, to be adjusted by the Urban Forestry Commission.
- Support for lower income assistance.
- A pilot program, to gauge interest.
- Using industry valuation methods (such as the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers guide) to value trees.
- Avoiding maintaining invasive and non-canopy trees
- Arborist assessments
- Contracting with several companies.

Vincent will share information on the history of the tree canopy fund, and tree evaluation tools with the Commission. No decision was made at this meeting, to be deferred until later meetings.

November Minutes and Commission Infrastructure (Work plan, Annual report, Memberships)

The minutes were approved unanimously

Staff Reports

Vincent Verweij spoke about current legislation at the Commonwealth, Soil Profile Rebuilding projects, and ongoing projects at Upton Hill Regional Park, and Jennie Dean Park.

Commissioner reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

No meeting was held in January

Park and Recreation Commission (David Howell)

No meeting was held before the Urban Forestry Commission in January

Planning Activities Notification

Biophilic Cities Network (Caroline Haynes): Staff is working on metrics to include in the application to join the Biophilic Cities Network; adoption by the board of the resolution was the first step in this process. A symposium is being planned for May/June timeframe to flesh out in more detail how Arlington can become a more biophilic community.

Artis Senior Living (Caroline Haynes): The developers for this project were very responsive to citizen input and the project is significantly improved from where it started, including adding a double row of trees to the pocket park along N. Taylor and Lee Highway, and improving the green roofs and outdoor spaces atop the parking garage for the residents. There was lots of discussion about how this SPRC could be used as a model for working on other projects. Because the developers engaged early with the Plan Lee Highway Group they received significant input upfront, resulting in a much better project, and the SPRC process was completed in two meetings. UFC may want to consider sending a letter to the County Board, commenting on the positive process and results of this project.

Steve Sockwell and Caroline Haynes met with Vincent to review some of the upcoming site plans and determine which ones to request that UFC have a seat at the table during the SPRC process.

Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)

A community workshop is planned for Friday, January 31, 6:30-8:00 and Saturday, February 1, 8:30-4:00 PM. I forwarded the invitation previously and encourage commissioners to stop by and contribute their views. Comments regarding additional open space and opportunities to increase tree canopy would be especially useful.

Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)

- New Board Elected: On January 18, a new Board of Directors was elected. The new Board includes:
 - President: John Wingard
 - Treasurer: Sally Burmeister
 - VP Communications: Lauren Oschman
 - VP Membership: Gretchen Crowley
 - At Large: Nora Palmatier, Bonnie Petry, Scott Knudsen, Andrew Benjamin, Deborah Wood
- Training: There are 42 trainees in the class, the current module dedicated to correct pruning techniques. Structural and functional pruning was practiced at Oakridge and Abingdon Elementary Schools, as well as Douglas Park. Jim McGlone gave his ever-popular lecture on Tree Anatomy, and this time it was videotaped.
- Pruning: Tree Stewards pruned trees at four Arlington elementary schools: Glebe, Key, Hoffman-Boston, and Science Focus.
- Arlington County Natural Resources: Tree Stewards regularly volunteer at the county nursery.

For more information on many of the above items, and others, please visit the TreeStewards website at:

<https://treestewards.org>

Arlington Tree Action Group (Kit Norland)

No report

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Nora Palmatier)

No report

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

On January 9, 2020, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting, with one item on the agenda:

Discussion / Action Item

- Presentation on Arlington County's plans for outreach for the 2020 Census. This, while interesting, was not relevant to UFC work.

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

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Teresa Leonardo)

No report

Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)

Spotted Lanternfly found in West Virginia, and could be spreading more. Recommended to monitor for this pest again in June.

Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Study Community Advisory Group (Nora Palmatier)

No report

Arlington Public Schools (Jim Meikle)

No report

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)

No report

New Business

The following items were discussed:

- Volunteers for SPRC and GLUP reviews were requested. Teresa Leonardo offered to help with the Shirlington GLUP. Kate Donohue offered to assist in projects that may not have Commission representation, in coordination with other Commission members. Tanja offered to work with Crystal Gateway and Shirlington projects. David is coordinating on projects with the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- A collection of major points from the urban forest master plan could be created, to best communicate issues during site plan review sessions.
- A presentation about deer management will be given to the County on February 3
- Tree preservation at the Upper Bluemont park project.
- Statistics on LDA projects
- Tree health at Lee Community Center