

Urban Forestry Commission
August 27, 2020
Microsoft Teams meeting

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Phil Klingelhofer, Chair
David Howell
John Carey
Kate Donohue
Nat Ames
Steve Sockwell
Tanja Crk
Kit Norland
Teresa Leonardo
Evelio Rubiella
Josh Handler
Noreen Hannigan

County and State Staff

Vincent Verweij, DPR
Steven Bernheisel, APS
Jim McGlone, VDOF

Guests

Bernie Berne
Steve Young
Bill Browning
Mary Glass

Guests, Commissioners and Staff – Introductions and Sign-in

The meeting was held online, using Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment

Bernie Berne spoke about the Tree Canopy Fund. He noted concerns about tree survival, asked for a note to be added to the deed of properties, to ensure their survival, and suggested that the Fund not be used for public property trees.

Deer in Arlington County – Bill Browning and Steve Young

Bill Browning presented on Deer in Arlington.

Topics discussed were:

1. Legality of hunting in Arlington
2. Context with development
3. Partners with other jurisdictions
4. Can the meat be sold
5. Counts of deer
6. Adding deer management to the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan

A letter was proposed, and approved unanimously, to be voted upon at the next meeting.

Tree Canopy Fund Changes – Phil Klingelhofer

Commissioner Donohue spoke about the proposed language.

Topics discussed were:

1. Using a percentage of the fund for maintenance
2. Following the same process as tree planting
3. Legality of using funds for tree maintenance
4. Timing of maintenance, and urgency
5. Creating a rolling schedule
6. What services will be offered
7. Only working on native and non-invasive trees
8. Size restrictions
9. Application fee
10. Consulting arborists

The language will be updated, based on the conversation, and proposed at the next meeting.

2021 Legislative Agenda

The Chair discussed different legislation in the Commonwealth with the commission.

A letter was circulated for review before the meeting. Additions to the letter proposed discussed were: Fines for RPA violations, bonding of tree planting, and supporting last year's tabled legislation.

Commissioner Carey offered to update minor non-structural issues in the letter. The letter was approved unanimously with those suggested changes

Discussion and Approval of letters – Phil Klingelhofer

The letter on zoning changes to improve tree conservation was approved unanimously, with an addition of "substantial" in front of "data", and a typo fix.

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

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

Vincent Verweij spoke about site plans, school projects, Virginia Hospital Center, and the Federal Tree Replacement Guidelines.

The following staff reports were shared:

Maintenance:

- Tree maintenance crews are continuing to work on a high volume of calls. More people teleworking and spending time outdoors seems to have highlighted more maintenance work. We are currently working with an approximately 250 request backlog.
- Staff inspected several trees for Historic Preservation. Several dead white oaks were approved for removal.

Planning:

Parks

- Edison – The reforestation planting is doing well, with minimal tree death in the remediated soil, and the park construction is on schedule.
- Lubber Run Community Center – The final walkthrough was performed, and several dead trees will be replanted this Fall, along with the remainder of the new trees.
- Mosaic – The final walkthrough was performed, and several dead trees and staking will be removed and replaced in the Fall planting season.
- Jennie Dean – Reviewing plans for tree impact
- Upton Hill Regional Park – Plans for the climbing structure were submitted, and are being reviewed.

Site Plans, Civil Engineering Plans, Administrative Changes

- New site plans
 - 1735 N Lynn St – International Place – DPR and DES are finalizing discussions with the applicant for streetscape and roof improvements.
 - 400 11th St S – Landscape plan is nearly approved, and the site is meeting the 17.6% canopy coverage on site, in accordance to the Crystal City Sector Plan.
 - 3140 Washington Blvd – Verizon and Wells Fargo Sites – Conceptual plans were reviewed and discussed with internal County staff.
 - 3901 Fairfax Dr (also known as the former funeral home site) – This is an old site plan from 2013. A new design shows a plaza with reduced hardscape, and increased planting. Staff is working to maximize tree planting on the project.
 - Courthouse Landmark Residential – Project near County headquarters. Proposing an enhanced planted festival boulevard, and biophilic design components.
- Existing site plans
 - Harris Teeter – Staff is working to maximize the conservation area for the large willow oaks on site.
 - Rosslyn Holiday Inn – The civil engineering plan is being reviewed for street tree planting space.
 - 3400 Potomac Ave (Land Bay D) – Planting is almost complete. This site plan has some significant Biophilic design components, and is worth checking out for its urban wastewood reuse and green walls, as well as extensive planting in the park.

- Axumite Village – Finalizing street tree pit installation.
 - Washington Blvd and Kirkwood Rd – Landscape plan and Civil Engineering Plan approved. Demolition and construction will likely start soon.
 - Queen’s Court – Tree pits are being installed.
 - Central District Retail – Trees are being planted and watered.
 - Met Park 6/7/8 – landscape plan for the site (not the park) approved.
- Large By-right plans:
 - Saint Timothy Church – The applicant has proposed a clearcut of the site in order to construct a new church.
 - Glebe Highlands South (23rd and S Glebe Rd) – Large by-right project with significant tree impact was redesigned. Tree impact may be reduced, but a large component of forest will still be impacted.

Schools

- Walter Reed School – Staff is working with neighbors to minimize impact to large adjacent trees.
- Dorothy Hamm school – First round of invasive plant clearing is complete. Still working on planting completion.
- Ashlawn School – Master Certificate of Occupancy was reviewed. Some trees did not survive, and will need to be replaced.

DES & NC

- Columbia Pike Multimodal – Several segments are in review. Tree impacts are moderate.
- Army Navy Complete Streets – Plans are nearing completion. Tree impact is high, but higher quality trees will be planted at project completion.

Single Family Development

- Work will begin shortly at 1608 N Quincy. This property is adjacent to Oak Grove Park and park easement will be utilized for the part of the project. Overall low impact to park.

Right-of-way review

- A Washington gas project caused damage to trees on 16th Rd N, and staff is working to minimize future impact through more stringent review requirements

County Facilities

- The Virginia Hospital site along Carlin Springs Rd was reviewed for impact. Staff is suggesting locations of increased conservation, and improving the Resource Protection Area through planting.

Tree Planting:

- The tree planting coordinator is finalizing the list of tree planting locations, and working with volunteer organizations to plan larger volunteer plantings.

Outreach:

- The 55+ program is working with forestry to create a video highlighting the urban forest for October, followed by a live discussion.

Commissioner reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

We had our first virtual meeting on August 3 with the staff and the consulting team working on the update of the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan. The team introduced themselves and provided some background. NRJAG members shared some of the work we have been doing for the past several in preparation of the launch of the update. It was noted that the first Natural Resources Management Plan was relatively limited in scope and there were a number of key issues that were not addressed. Some of the issues that were recommended be included in this update: take a broader approach across county functions and departments, consistent with the Biophilic resolution; deer management; meadow management; water management (impact on streams/seeps and relationship to stormwater management); county-wide native planting policy; bird-friendly construction; dark-skies lighting; impact on wildlife of free-roaming cats; mountain-biking and other off trail use of our natural areas; weed ordinance changes for native plant gardens.

Park and Recreation Commission (David Howell)

The Park and Recreation Commission held an informal meeting on Tuesday, August 18, to take advantage of the opportunity for a socially distanced walking tour of the Lubber Run Community Center. The tour was conducted by Pete Lusk, of DPR, the department's project manager, and included members of the Sports Commission as well. The outdoor grounds and park areas of this renovated center will be open for use—under county covid-19 rules—very soon. The interior is nearing completion, but is not yet scheduled for opening. Outdoor natural areas and tree planting are abundant, and well-cared for. The interior contains notable features that have been made from oak and walnut trees that had to be removed. They were milled and kiln-dried and then used to create wood paneling and seating benches.

Planning Activities Notification

No report

Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)

All in-person public engagement events have been cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)

Tree Steward volunteer activities are coming back, although in smaller groups and often online. Below are some recent volunteer activities:

- Pests and Diseases training by Kirsten Conrad, held online
- Invasive Removal at Brandymore Castle
- Work days at the Arlington Nursery
- A number of Tree Stewards assisted in TCF activities including visiting and vetting applicant properties, participating in review sessions, and tagging trees at White House Natives nursery

Arlington Tree Action Group (Kit Norland)

No report

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Vacant)

No report

Tree Canopy Fund (Kate Donohue)

Representatives that included EcoAction Arlington, UFC members, and Tree Stewards reviewed the applications for Tree Canopy Fund trees over three online sessions. On August 20, a group met at White House Natives in Luray, VA, and tagged the trees that will be delivered for planting (a few trees will be sourced elsewhere, but almost all will be purchased from WHN).

The counts below may change a bit as the final visits/requests for information are completed, but the list below is very close to final.

Asimina triloba (Pawpaw): 9
Magnolia virginiana (Sweetbay magnolia): 22
Cercis canadensis (Redbud): 32
Carpinus caroliniana (American hornbeam): 31
Quercus palustris (Pin oak): 45
Celtis occidentalis (Sugarberry/Hackberry): 28
Platanus occidentalis (American sycamore): 21
Quercus bicolor (Swamp white oak): 26
Tilia americana (American linden): 28

TOTAL: 242

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

No report

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Teresa Leonardo)

We haven't had an E2C2 meeting since the last UFC. Our next meeting is Monday and focused on discussing the Green Building Program, Commercial Development, the CEP implementation framework and our draft legislative letter (I hope tonight will help me identify a couple key forest/NRM items that E2C2 could help advocate for).

Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)

The Watershed Improvement Plan Phase III to bring Chesapeake Bay into compliance with water quality standards for sediment and nutrient is now in effect. I received tree planting numbers for 2020-2021 on August 18. The totals in WIP III cover 2020-2025 and have been parsed by DOF work areas. The Potomac work area covers Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. These numbers include ALL tree planting – public, private, homeowners etc. I have yet to be briefed, but it is my understanding that the tree planting data is to be reported through VDOF. I will keep you apprised as I learn more. In the meantime, start counting because every stem matters.

Potomac	Urban Planting	# of Trees	56,215	Potomac-Shenandoah
	Forest Buffers	Acres	108	
	Buffers/Fence	Acres	56	
	Afforestation	Acres	126	
	Urban Buffers	Acres	128	
	Forest Canopy	Acres	301	

Arlington Public Schools (Jim Meikle)

No report

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)

No report

New Business

1. Commissioner Handler asked for an update on ADUs, and mentioned the recent NVTA decision on partial, limited funding for NOVA Parks W&OD widening trail proposal. The commissioner's email to NVTA asking for clarification and NVTA's response was asked to be added to the minutes. It can be read below.
2. Jim McGlone spoke about the WIP numbers, and VDOF budget.

Commissioner Handler's email to Sree Nampoothiri, of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority:

I am on Arlington County's [Urban Forestry Commission](#). At our July 23 meeting, under new business, we discussed the potential tree impact of this project. Due to the (mis)perception that the trail runs entirely under the high-powered electrical lines, it seemingly is underappreciated that any number of trees could be affected by a trail widening or straightening at the western end of the project where the trail is next to Madison Manor Park's forested area and Brandymore Castle.

We discussed seeking further information on when NVTA funds would be transferred to NOVA Parks, and when we could expect NOVA Parks to begin the early phases of project development. Presumably this would involve a tree survey and environmental impact assessment, an analysis of alternatives and a robust public engagement process, including a working group with input from interested Arlington residents and commissions.

I suggested I could reach out to you. Thus, these several questions:

- When will NOVA Parks receive the \$650,000 in preliminary funding (and is it disbursed all at once or in tranches);
As per the approved application, the funding will be available starting FY2024. NVTA will examine forward funding projects, on a limited basis, as the economic impact of COVID-19 becomes clearer. NVTA funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis, which means the project sponsor must spend the money first and provide adequate documentation for NVTA staff to reimburse the expenses on a line by line basis.
- When do you expect NOVA Parks to start the project development?
As per the application, FY2024. NOVA Parks had informed NVTA staff during the project evaluation process that if the funding becomes available earlier, NOVA Parks is ready to start project development earlier than FY2024. NVTA Finance Staff has discussed with NOVA Parks, parameters within which Parks could advance the project with their own resources and seek reimbursement on or after July 1, 2023 (start of FY2024).
- Does your funding require an environmental impact statement, a tree survey, analysis of alternatives and a robust public engagement process; and
NVTA expects project sponsors to follow all environmental and public engagement processes dictated by federal/state/local regulations, as appropriate. There are no separate requirements from NVTA.
- Is continuing to the next phase of the project dependent on the results of the tree survey, environmental impact statement, analysis of alternatives, and the public engagement process or will it proceed regardless?
There is no commitment from NVTA to fund further phase(s) of the project at this point. NOVA Parks needs to apply for further funding in a future cycle and the application will

be evaluated along with the rest of the applications received during the application period.