

**Urban Forestry Commission**  
**September 24, 2020**  
**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Phil Klingelhofer, Chair  
David Howell  
John Carey  
Kate Donohue  
Caroline Haynes  
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  
Jessica Abralind, DES

**Guests**

Bernie Berne  
Mary Glass  
Peggy Flaxman  
John Bloom, E2C2

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

The meeting was held online, using Microsoft Teams.

**Public Comment**

Mary Glass spoke about the Civic Federation. Mary asked to share information shared with Phil, with the Commission. She spoke about issues with trees and private developers, and looking to bring people together to better preserve trees. Mary brought up a second issue of stream restoration, and concern with impacts to trees. She expressed an interest in bringing in experts on alternative stream restoration designs.

Bernie Berne spoke about Green Building Incentive Policy. He expressed concern that it is a vague policy, and not specific enough about biophilia. He suggested making the language more specific about meadows, pollinators, and trees.

**Biophilic Design in Green Building Incentive Policy – Jessica Abralind**

Jessica presented on the green building incentive policy update. The following items were discussed:

- Bird-friendly design, and a typo on “at least 36 feet”
- The effectiveness of the program, and current participation
- SITES requirements

- NAIOP presentation
- Concern about automatic solar update from the building industry.

The subject was discussed, and a letter was proposed with language on requiring specific metrics to measure the effectiveness. Commissioner Leonardo offered to write a draft letter, which was unanimously supported.

### **Including Natural Resources in UFC Charter – David Howell and Phil Klingelhofer**

Commissioner Howell and the Chair provided context on the changes. E2C2 Chair John Bloom provided information on changes to the E2C2 charter, which will intersect with the proposed changes to the UFC charter.

A discussion followed on how to organize these changes. An executive working group will be convened to discuss the changes, with a shared document to gather thoughts on what areas of focus will be included in the Charter. Vincent Verweij will set up the shared document. A single meeting was suggested, to discuss the changes.

### **Tree Canopy Fund Change Update – Kate Donohue**

Commissioner Donohue described the proposed changes. More changes were suggested, and Commissioner Donohue will draft an updated document, with input from EcoAction Arlington, for review next time.

### **August Minutes and Commission Infrastructure (Work plan, Annual report, Memberships)**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Staff Reports**

Vincent Verweij spoke about the Foreign Service Center, Pentagon, 3901 Fairfax Dr, and the new Division Chief for Parks and Natural Resources, Jennifer Fioretti.

The following staff reports were shared:

### **Maintenance:**

- Staff inspected several trees for Historic Preservation. No removals were approved.
- Tree requests are slowing down, and response can now keep up with requests. Existing requests still number in the high 200s.
- A new contract for tree maintenance will go out in October, for bid. Staff worked to combine the tree removal and pruning contracts into one contract, and allow for multiple bid winners to be awarded. Updated safety standards, guidelines for snagging trees, and emergency response will likely be a component of the contract.

## **Planning:**

### *Parks*

- Benjamin Banneker – The first set of Fall plantings will occur this week. Plant stock was acceptable.
- Alcova Heights – Met with PDD, DES, and the design engineer to revise the stormwater and reforestation calculations.
- Upton Hill Regional Park – A land disturbance permit was submitted for the new climbing structure. Staff is reviewing this for any additional impact.

### *DES & NC*

- Columbia Pike Multimodal – Tree planting for the first segment near N Greenbrier St will occur in early October.
- Four Mile Run Channel Dredging – Reviewing plans for staging and construction activity near Troy Park.
- 26<sup>th</sup> St N Outfall Repair – Reviewing plans for outfall repair, mostly on NPS land. Tree impact will be lower than expected.
- Tributary B Stream Restoration – An emergency repair was made with minimal impact to trees. A small maple that was proposed for removal was impacted, so it will be removed this Fall, prior to the project starting in 2021.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rd N – Landscape plans were submitted and approved for the streetscape and transit project.
- Four Mile Run Dredging – Troy Park will stage equipment for dredging of Four Mile Run. This will impact some trees in the park.

### *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. The final set of comments were submitted to the applicant.
  - 1900 Crystal Dr – Finalizing landscape plans. This project will have street trees, at-grade trees, and rooftop trees.
  - 3901 Fairfax Dr – This project took in comments on plaza design, and is looking at options to integrate trees into the plaza.
  - 12<sup>th</sup> St Apartments – Working to meet Crystal City tree canopy targets on this site.
- Existing site plans
  - Harris Teeter at 600 N Glebe Rd – Staff working to maximize tree conservation of large willow oaks, and maximize on-site planting.
  - Rosslyn Holiday Inn – Civil Engineering plans and landscape plans being reviewed. Utility installation underway.

- 400 11<sup>th</sup> St S – Demo only is about to begin, with a preconstruction meeting taking place last week with DES and the developer.
  - Met Park 6/7/8 – Installed tree protection along the street, for utility work
  - 1555 Wilson Blvd – installing tree pits
  - 4000 Fairfax Dr. The developer found space in the plaza to replace 3 street trees that could not be installed due to a miscalculation of the size of Dominion Energy vaults
  - Market Common – Installed street trees and tree grates (a rare exception to the tree grate rule, due to sidewalk width).
  - 950 George Mason Dr – Street trees checked, and low condition trees will be replaced
  - Trenton Town homes (Red Cross) – Landscape to be installed the week of September 29.
- Large By-right plans:
    - Saint Timothy Church – The applicant has submitted the landscape plan for review.
    - US National Guard Readiness Center – Plans were submitted and reviewed for the construction of a new building.
  - Tree protection violations on small by-rights
    - Staff is experiencing projects removing trees before permit approval, and is working to issue violation letters and follow-up action.

### **Tree Planting:**

The fall planting list was submitted to the contractor for pricing. 311 trees will be planted this fall.

### **Outreach:**

Outreach is ongoing for the fall tree distribution events on October 24 and 27. Find out more here: <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/register-for-your-free-tree/>

### **Personnel:**

Jennifer Fioretti has taken on an acting role of the Parks and Natural Resources Division Chief, for the next 12 months. David Farner will return to his position as Deputy Division Chief.

## Commissioner reports

### Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

No report

### 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

On behalf of UFC, Steve Sockwell and I participated in the virtual Site Plan Review Committee for Crystal Gateway (101 12th Street S). The JBG project for an office building will be constructed on an existing privately owned open space, adjacent to Long Bridge Park. The project is generally consistent with the Crystal City Sector Plan and incorporates a number of biophilic elements, including extensive green roofs, native plantings and bird friendly glass on at least one side of the building. About an acre of the space on the site will be designated as Gateway Park, adjacent to Long Bridge Park. There will be a separate County planning process for the park and we urged preserving the existing trees in the Gateway Park.

### Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)

A renaming committee has convened to consider replacing the name of Lee Highway and the steps that would need to be taken to make that happen.

### Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)

- Virtual training continued with Jim McGlone giving a presentation on Tree Physiology and Planting Best Practices.
- Tree Stewards assisted at the County Nursery, and will assist Dept. of Natural Resources in fall planting.
- Invasive removal continues at Brandymore Castle.
- Tree Steward Hugh Robinson is coordinating with APS on plans for Tree Stewards to do functional pruning at schools as we enter fall.
- Tree Stewards will assist with the Arlington Tree Giveaway.

Arlington Tree Action Group (Kit Norland)

No report

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Vacant)

No report

Tree Canopy Fund (Kate Donohue)

After requesting waivers, there will be 219 trees planted this fall.

Species	Requested
Asimina triloba - Pawpaw	6
Magnolia virginiana - Sweetbay magnolia	22
Cercis canadensis - Redbud	27
Carpinus caroliniana - American hornbeam	27
Quercus palustris - Pin oak	41
Celtis occidentalis - Sugarberry	26
Platanus occidentalis - American sycamore	18
Quercus bicolor - Swamp white oak	24
Tilia americana - American linden	28
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>219</b>

- We are wrapping up any requests for help in placing trees prior to planting.
- Consideration of what species to offer for the Spring 2121 planting season is underway, including whether or not to offer small trees in the future.
- A final proposal to conduct a pilot program offering TCF funds for mature tree maintenance, after consultation with EcoAction Arlington, has been submitted to the UFC for approval.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

No report

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Teresa Leonardo)

The August E2C2 included an update from staff on the draft revision of incentive requirements under the voluntary Green Building program. Updates are needed so that the program will incentivize energy efficiency steps that go beyond those required by code (which evolves as technology advances). Updates are also intended to incentivize actions to help us meet county goals under the Community Energy Plan (CEP).

We discussed the Community Energy Implementation Framework (CEPIF) and next steps - draft CEPIF should be released soon for public comment.

We also discussed and finalized our legislative priority letter.

Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)

No report

Arlington Public Schools (Jim Meikle)

No report

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)

No report

**New Business**

- Commissioner Hannigan was added to the Bicycle Advisory Commission.
- The Chair spoke with the new county board member, Takis Karantonis on biophilic design.
- The Chair shared the Deer letter, which will be discussed in October
- Commissioner Norland asked for elaboration on violation letters. Vincent Verweij will share the standard process for violations.