

**Urban Forestry Commission
November 19, 2020
Microsoft Teams meeting**

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Phil Klingelhofer, Chair
David Howell
Caroline Haynes
Kate Donohue
Kit Norland
Nat Ames
Noreen Hannigan
Evelio Rubiella
Teresa Leonardo
Josh Handler

County and State Staff

Vincent Verweij, DPR
Christina deMariano, DPR
Aftab Hussain, DPR
Steven Bernheisel, APS
Jim McGlone, VDOF

Guests

Alisa Cowen
Anne Bodine
Elizabeth Grossman
Mary Glass
Gordon Fraley
Amy DeRieux

Guests, Commissioners and Staff – Introductions and Sign-in

The meeting was held online, using Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment

Gordon Fraley spoke about a newly-owned building in Rosslyn, which is requesting the removal of trees in Dark Star Park. Mr. Fraley offered to pay for removal and replacement of trees. A letter was shared outlining the request.

Mary Glass spoke about a “better GIS system for Natural Resources Planning”. She asked for a multi-layer analysis to be funded for tree canopy assessment.

Tree Conservation review on N Edgewood Street Properties – Vincent Verweij, Aftab Hussain, and Christina deMariano

Vincent Verweij, with urban foresters Aftab Hussain and Christina deMariano, described how a project is reviewed, and how tree conservation plays a role in site design.

Questions followed about how changes to the zoning code may help reduce impact.

Maintenance and recording of public trees – Vincent Verweij

Vincent Verweij demonstrated the Cartegraph Work Order system, and how it is used to maintain trees in Arlington County, from removal to pruning to planting.

A question followed on how risk is assessed, using the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

New technologies in tree canopy studies, and existing studies – Vincent Verweij

Vincent Verweij presented on tree canopy studies, and what technology is available for tree canopy assessment.

Questions followed on what the preferred assessment would be, and whether collaboration with other organizations is being considered (such as a regional study). Vincent mentioned a Chesapeake Bay-wide study, using LiDar, which may become available in 2021.

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

The October minutes were approved unanimously, with a small change to the NOVA Parks Letter item.

Additional discussion included

1. Name change to the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission in January
2. The upcoming Work Plan and Report
3. NOVA Parks information on invasive plant control.

Staff Reports

Vincent Verweij highlighted the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan, The Bon Air reforestation, and the Fort Henry and Crystal City Water Park plans.

Maintenance:

- Staff met with several Maywood residents to discuss tree health. No removals were permitted.
- Staff met with the homeowner of the historic Alcova House. Unfortunately, the white oak next to the rear of the house will be removed as the tree is in severe decline.
- Tree maintenance requests are around 240. Requests have slowed down slightly, but are still keeping crews very busy.
- One new bucket truck arrived, and is being outfitted for use by the tree crew.

- Our tree maintenance request form is now forwarding to the Report a Problem page. To request tree maintenance or inspections, go to <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem/>
- The tree maintenance contract process has completed, and we will be starting with a new contract in December, with a contractor to be announced.
- The tree planting coordinator is working on a way to reduce invasive species management under young trees, rather than mowing in buffer areas.
- Work on Arlington Forest Park's tree removals will commence this week.

Planning:

Site plans

- New and under review
 - International Place (1735 N Lynn St) – Building renovation and streetscape update – Still under review
 - Colonial Village (1731 N Veitch St) – Plans approved.
 - 12th St Apartments – Plans under review, but should be finalized soon.
 - 400 11th St S – Plans under review, but should be finalized soon.
 - Crystal City Water Park – Concept plans are under review, but show high tree impacts.
 - Fort Henry Gardens – Plans under review. Proposal shows high tree impact.
 - 3901 Fairfax Dr – Staff is working to maximize tree canopy with the use of the plaza, and reviewing the rest of the site.
 - 2025 Clarendon Blvd (Wendy's Site) – new proposal being reviewed.
- Under construction and inspection
 - The Trove – Completed all planting and invasive plant control.
 - 4000 Fairfax Dr – Staff is continuing to work with the applicant to find appropriate replacement for missing tree pits.
 - Central District Retail – Planting being completed.
 - The Berkeley – Planting completed
 - Washington and Kirkwood – Demolition starting soon.
 - Clarendon West (Red Top) – Tree pits being installed

DES

- Donaldson Run Tributary B – Approved.

- Donaldson Run Tributary A Outfall Restoration – Under review.
- Fire Station 8 – Reviewing impacts and planting plan
- Columbia Pike - staff is coordinating planting with Columbia Pike Multimodal contractors. Planting has begun for the first segment. This is a large planting, along Columbia Pike, and has been in planning for years.
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Parks

- Edison – The park will be completed in December 2020. A few trees in the reforestation will be replaced as well.
- Marcey Road – Plans approved.
- Long Bridge – The 500 trees will be planted in late November at the Pentagon, as prior agreed upon. WSSI, DoD, and the County will be monitoring the planting.
- Alcova Heights – Revised reforestation plans are approved by Urban Forestry.
- Dark Star – Adam Lipera met with the Rosslyn BID and the building manager at 1655 N Lynn St; concerns include: two willow oaks on either side of the staircase next to the building/plaza outgrowing their planting space, tree limbs near the building, tree limbs in conflict with a streetlight wire (insulated duplex), excess birds in the park, and overall maintenance of the park. The BID and building manager have also met numerous times with the Park Area Manager, Lyndell Core. All parties have met with Public Art as well. More to come on this issue.
- Jennie Dean Park – Preconstruction will be held on 11/20/2020

By-right projects

- The Children’s School at 4770 Lee Hwy – The plan is going through a change and plans will be re-submitted in December.
- Primrose School (2107 Wilson Blvd) – LDA plan approved as well as the admin change for species type along the County ROW.
- 4009 25th St N – The developer is still trying to remediate the violations performed before an LDA was issued.
- Columbia Gardens Cemetery (3411 Arlington Blvd.) – plan rejected for incomplete survey and trees misidentified. The current plan proposes impact to existing forest on the cemetery grounds.
- Rivendell School (4210 N Kensington St) – completed first phase of construction with tree/bush plantings. Once second phase is completed future tree plantings will follow.
- A private stream restoration in Arlington Village is underway.
- Saint Timothy and Athanasius Coptic church – CEP plans are under review.

Schools

- Dorothy Hamm/Stratford school has installed reforestation signs, and are completing the planting of trees.
- APS Ed Center – Tree protection to go in next month. Great care will be taken to conserve linden trees with the resurfacing of the building.

Long Range Planning

- The Shirlington streetscape is being proposed for development. Staff is working with the applicant to reduce impact to the existing mature trees.
- Lee Highway – staff is assisting in proposing tree canopy targets.

Tree Planting:

- A volunteer project, planting several hundred trees and other plants, is underway, at Bon Air Park, using donated funds and volunteer help from a private group, Peace Home Lending, with assistance from Master Naturalists and Tree Stewards
- Tree planting for the fall should start in early December.
- Planning for Spring planting is ongoing.

Outreach:

- Public engagement for the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan has started. People can access it here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/fnrp/>

Commissioner reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

Jason Papacosma (DES Watershed Programs Manager) and Christin Jolicouer (DES Senior Watershed Planner) provided an update on upcoming Stormwater projects, noting that funding was dependent upon adoption of the bond on the ballot the following day (subsequently approved). There was discussion about how stormwater projects should be viewed in the larger context of the update of the Forestry and Natural Resources Management Plan, and how stormwater projects could and should address a range of broader needs within the county, such as additional open space and green infrastructure.

Staff provided a rough timeline of upcoming public outreach on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan. Commissioners were asked to provide feedback on the public engagement questions (now [live at this link](#)) as well as the questions posed at the [Long Range Planning Committee](#) on November 10.

Park and Recreation Commission (David Howell)

The PRC agenda for Tuesday the 17th has only one main item. That is David Farner doing a presentation on the Park Steward program..

Planning Activities Notification

No report

Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)

The working group on renaming Lee Highway has been meeting virtually. The group has developed a long list of names and is going through the process of winnowing down suggested alternatives. Commissioners are encouraged to take the poll of suggested names at [this link](#).

Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)

Tree Stewards:

- Volunteers are working with DPR and volunteers from the general public to plant trees at Bon Air Park, November 19-20.
- Tree Stewards planted trees as part of a restoration planting at Barcroft Park.
- Volunteers planted trees and shrubs along lower Four Mile Run in Arlington and Alexandria.
- Tree Stewards removed invasive plants at Carling Springs School and Brandymore Castle.
- Tree Stewards volunteer regularly at the Arlington County Nursery.
- Volunteers assisted at the Arlington Tree Giveaway.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Kit Norland)

No report

Tree Canopy Fund (Kate Donohue)

Fall 2020 trees are expected to start being planted the week of Nov. 16.

The application form and related information for trees to be planted in Spring 2021 are now online at <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>. The deadline for receiving applications is January 8, 2021. Arlington Tree Action Group (Kit Norland)

Bicycle Advisory Committee (Noreen Hannigan)

Commissioner Hannigan reported the Bicycle Advisory Committee did not report any tree impacts with current projects, and asked for clarification on how to attend commission meetings.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

The NCAC did not meet in November.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Teresa Leonardo)

The main items relevant to UFC are:

- We approved a letter on deer management (similar recommendations as the UFC letter)
- We also approved a letter on the Green Building Incentive Policy -this focused primarily on the energy elements though also noted support for the incorporation of biophilic elements. We also advocated for updates to the policy every three years.
- We found out that the County Board approved our revised charter with no major changes
- We had a discussion with Rip Sullivan from the House of Delegates on State legislative priorities. I'm attaching Arlington's draft 2021 legislative priorities for anyone who hasn't seen these.
- less relevant to UFC - John Morrill, Arlington's fantastic Energy Manager who has driven huge progress over the past 20 years, has taken a job in Fairfax Co.

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

1. Commissioner Norland noted county board comments on tree canopy and tree maintenance.
2. Chair Klingelhofer asked about the maintenance request at Dark Star. No action was taken.
3. Commissioner Handler asked about NOVA parks. Chair Klingelhofer will provide NOVA Parks' response

4. December meeting will be the last UFC meeting under the name Urban Forestry Commission, as it transitions into the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission.