

## **Forestry and Natural Resources Commission**

*7:00 p.m., April 22, 2021*

### **Microsoft Teams conference meeting**

#### **Action Items and reports**

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

Commissioners present: David Howell, Melody Mobley, Bill Browning, Josh Handler, Kate Donohue, Kit Norland, Nat Ames, Phil Klingelhofer, John Carey, Caroline Haynes, Steve Sockwell, Noreen Hannigan

Staff: Vincent Verweij, Jennifer Fioretti, Steve Bernheisel

Guests: Patrick Hope, Libby Garvey, Jon Walsh, Mary Glass

Staff: Vincent, Jen F.

#### **Public comments**

Jon Walsh interested in joining the commission. Spoke about interest in a comprehensive trail management plan. Interest in Four Mile Run.

Mary Glass spoke about the need for a tree canopy study. June 2020 NAIP data will become available.

#### **Legislative Updates – Libby Garvey and Patrick Hope**

Delegate Hope and Board Member Garvey spoke about legislative work underway.

#### **Non-native trees in County programs – Vincent Verweij**

Vincent Verweij presented on non-native trees in County programs. The commission noted more discussion may need to happen on this.

#### **Additional Budget Priorities FY22 letter**

A discussion was had about the letter. A letter to be circulated for next meeting, to be approved later.

Commissioner Norland moved to write and send a letter in the next couple months. Commissioner Carey moved to prepare the letter for next meeting. Commissioner Handler seconded.

Nine votes in favor. Motion carried with a majority.

Commissioner Carey offered to write the letter.

### **Commission Infrastructure (Work Plan, Annual Report, Memberships)**

A discussion on the communication with Paul Gilbert of NOVA Parks was had.

### **Staff Reports**

#### Maintenance:

- March and April brought with it a significantly increased amount of requests. Response to requests, compared to incoming requests flattened at this point. We are keeping up with incoming work.
- After-hours callbacks are increasing, for downed trees and limbs, with leaves coming back on, and a handful of erratic windstorms causing tree failure.
- Chainsaw safety trainings continued, with other staff across the division

#### Planning:

(Projects with high impact or high opportunity highlighted in **bold**)

##### Long-term planning

- Staff is working with the Missing Middle team, in concert with stormwater staff to find solutions to integrate green space and tree canopy in concepts

##### Site plans (special exception and by-right)

New and under review:

- **Crystal City Water Park** – Staff is working with the applicant to ensure appropriate soil volumes and tree protection methods are used for this project.
- **2450 Crystal Drive (Century Center)** – Staff is working with the applicant to consider alternatives to tree impact in their design.
- Crystal Plaza 1 – Staff is reviewing new designs for the pedestrian walkway, integrating more trees and green space.
- **Met Park 6/7/8** – The park design for this project is being reviewed for planting, aiming to reach 40% tree canopy.
- 1201 N Vernon St Duplex – Staff is still coordinating with the applicant on minimizing tree loss.
- Market Common Loop – A revision to the open space will be reviewed by PRC. There are some trees impacted, but the impact is fairly low, and trees will be replaced.
- 2330 Columbia Pike – This project is a form-based code project, along Columbia Pike. Impact is fairly low, and trees will be replaced on site. An area for a large bus stop will show a break in tree pits, which is compensated for extra trees on the building side.

Approved and/or under construction:

- 1731 N Veitch St (Colonial Village Townhomes) – Offsite tree planting will occur within the next two-three weeks.
- 6711 Lee Hwy – Townhomes abutting the park are nearing occupancy. One oak in the park will be pruned since it conflicts with balconies.

### DES

- Lynnbrook Property Stormwater Improvements – Plans are approved on Urban Forestry’s end.
- Several intersection improvement projects, watermain replacements, and bus stop projects throughout the County were approved and/or in review. Most have very minimal tree impacts.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rd N & N Lexington St Sidewalk Improvements – Gas work in the ROW will begin shortly. All easements and temp easements have been signed.
- Donaldson Run Stream Stabilization, Phase 2 – Headwaters – Urban Forestry is working with DES on the replacement trees and should have a 90% plan next month.

### Parks

- Jennie Dean – Demolition of the park is ongoing. All tree protection complies with the approved plan.
- Glencarlyn Bridge Replacement – First review just came in for the core team to review.
- Rosslyn Highlands – Planting will occur in the Fall.
- Long Bridge Aquatic Center – The remaining on-site tree planting concluded.

### By-right projects

- Staff is addressing permit violations in a handful of spaces, where sites that were formerly under 2,500 square ft, have exceeded disturbance, and are required to get land disturbance permits.
- A project along 23<sup>rd</sup> St S and S Glebe Rd will impact a large forested site. This is a by-right project, but this will be visible in the landscape.

### Schools

- The stormwater detention facility at Walter Reed school is being reviewed for tree impact. Impact remains low, but as of right now, approximately 3-4 small to medium trees may be impacted.

### Federal

- The Arlington Cemetery Columbia Pike connection review was completed. This section of road will have significant tree planting along the road and trail.

### **Tree Planting:**

- Spring planting is starting next week, and sites are being marked for planting.
- Staff met our contractor at the South Riding nursery, inspecting trees to be planted.

**Outreach:**

- Staff presented on tree programs and collaboration to the Park Stewards.
- A new program, Adopt-a-Tree was launched, to allow residents to adopt public trees for watering, this season. Learn more here: <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/adopt-a-tree-in-arlington/>
- A project planting over 500 trees along the Boundary Channel, near the Pentagon, will get a short writeup. This project was a collaboration, planting trees to compensate for loss at Long Bridge Park, on Department of Defense land.

**Personnel:**

- Several staff completed ISA training, and are looking forward to their tests, to make them certified arborists.
- Staff are continuing to attend virtual trainings and webinars to keep up with industry practices and to obtain CEU's to maintain certifications.

**Other:**

- IPM reports are starting up again, with a heavy focus on Cicadas and ambrosia beetles, so far
- MWCOG is working on regional tree canopy recommendations. Staff provided examples of high tree canopy projects in different zoning types, for inclusion.
- Staff met to discuss new ways to visualize root zones, in our codes, to better represent root zones in restricted space, or where roots encounter obstacles. This will help with more realistic conservation.
- Staff is reviewing the results of the deer survey with the contractor.
- 2020 and 2021 Notable Trees was presented at the April County Board meeting.

Commission Member Reports (**Taken in order of Action Items first**)

- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)
  - Commissioner Haynes reported verbally on NRJAG. The April meeting involved the issues inventory for the FNRP, and the PSMP-IAC included an annual update.
- Park and Recreation Commission (David Howell)
  - No report
- Planning Activities Notification (Steve Sockwell)
  - A letter was proposed and approved to comment on the Century Center project, to advocate for conservation of existing trees.
- Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)
  - The group has not met recently. Commissioners asked if an update to FNRC is needed. Staff will check.
- Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)
  - Tree Stewards removed invasives, mulched and tended to recently planted trees at Claremont Elementary.
- Tree Canopy Fund (Kate Donohue)
  - The application period for planting in Fall 2021 is open until midnight on June 25. The species list, application form, and program information can be found at <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/> .
- Bicycle Advisory Committee (Noreen Hannigan)
  - No Forestry or Natural Resources issues
- Arlington Tree Action Group (Kit Norland)
  - No report
- Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Kit Norland)
  - No report
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)
  - Did not meet
- Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission (Teresa Leonardo)
  - No report
- Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)
  - No report
- Arlington Public Schools (Jim Meikle)
  - No report
- Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)
  - No report

9:00 PM New Business

- A request was made for items for future discussion at the Commission.
- A question was raised about land acquisition.

**Next Meeting: May 27, 2021**