
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL
ARLINGTON COUNTY FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

10/27/22

The **FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION** convened its meeting at **7:00 PM** on **10/27/22**.

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)	None, virtual meeting
PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)	Commissioners Caroline Haynes, John Carey, Kit Norland, Nat Ames, Phil Klingelhofer, Steve Sockwell, Noreen Hannigan, Kate Donohue, David Howell, Colt Gregory, Josh Handler, Bill Browning, Melody Mobley
ABSENT	None
STAFF	Vincent Verweij, Laura Shaub (CPHD) , Brett Wallace (CPHD), Steven Bernheisel (APS)
GUESTS	Jamaica Gayle

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

Introductions

Public Comments

Guide to Landscape Standards

Laura Shaub, Brett Wallace, and Vincent Verweij presented on the guide to landscape standards.

Discussion followed on what triggers the requirement, flowing water features, pollinator plants, how sector plans work with these, bird friendly design, climate change, shrub coverage, and the urgency for change.

2022 Year end Report and 2023 Action Plan

The following items were discussed for future approval:

Items for the Year end report:

1. FNRP
2. Deer
3. Missing Middle
4. The outreach and other work the commission has worked on (send to John Carey)
5. Other planning efforts (Pentagon City, Langston, PSMP-IAC, site plans)
6. Pilot program with TCF (with numbers)

Action plan

1. Planting of Pollinator plants

2. Increase setbacks in lots
3. FNRP
4. Missing Middle
5. Deer
6. Include ARMN in reports
7. Outreach to underserved people, including to become part of the commission

September Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Commission Infrastructure

Phil mentioned vacancy during action plan item.

Staff Reports

Maintenance:

- Our third batch of preventive pruning targeted a total of 50 trees to be pruned and 1 removal.
- Staff are still inventorying trees at 32Nd Rd S, 33Nd Rd, and S Stafford St. Fairlington Neighborhood.
- Staff has inspected several trees for different Park Managers. In Lubber Run Park, Utah Park, Fort Barnard Park, and Parkhurst Park.
- The tree crew have been working at Towers dog Park, Gulf Branch Nature Center, Oxford St, Walter Reed Community Center, Jamestown School, Bluemont Park, GlenCarlyn Park, Walter Reed Center, Cherrydale Library, Douglas Park, Bailey's Branch Park
- Contractors have been working at S. Ivy St., Key Blvd. and Long Branch nature Center, 858 N Abingdon St & Washington Blvd, Oakland Park, Fields Park
- Staff is working with the division's welder to remove restrictive tree grates and frames.

Planning:

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

Long-term planning

- VDOT is planning the **Rt 1 project**, and staff have been attending planning meetings to advocate for green space and shade along the corridor.
- Staff attended planning meetings for a pedestrian bridge at the east Falls Church Metro station to East Falls Church Park, several planning meetings for George Mason Drive multi-modal projects, and a site walk for a proposed ANCC trail connection between Army Navy Drive and 13th Rd S.

Site plans (special exception and by-right)

- Active site plans
 - Discussion on the Macy's project at 701 N Glebe Road took place with multiple departments. Forestry highlighted that it is required for the soil volumes to be presented along with the proposed tree species to determine the required canopy cover.
 - The Arlington **YMCA redevelopment** is under review. Staff have been attending developer meetings with planners as this project has tree and landscape conservation requirements in the GLUP study.

- Plans for the American Hotel were reviewed. Forestry requested the developer to add an extra tree on the streetscape to increase their canopy cover and to keep the trees located on the back of the property even though route one might remove them. The separate Route 1 project will be responsible for the replacement of these trees.
- Plans for the Form Based Code project at **2801 Columbia Pike** were reviewed. This site has many restraints, such as a proposed bus shelter on Columbia Pike, and limited sidewalk width of 7 feet sidewalk on Walter Reed. The developer is exploring planting trees on the proposed median and the second-floor communal area.
- Preliminary site plan submission for the Sunrise project at 716 South Glebe Rd. Forestry is pushing for the larger mature oak to be preserved on the south part of the project.
- Reviewed the resubmittal application 1600 S Eads St. Major comments were resolved; such as extending tree protection and meeting the canopy requirement of 17.6%. Soil details and tree protection need further improvements.
- Discussed the pending comments at 2011 Crystal Drive. Forestry is pushing for the 2 trees onsite to be protected and creating a snake-shaped sidewalk to protect the CRZ. The applicant also must meet canopy cover and soil volume requirements.
- Approved site plans
 - Soil pre-installation meeting at the Century Center (2450 Crystal Drive). Soil expansion and the Silva cells installation will take place in the next couple of weeks.
 - The final inspection took place at Sage at 480 11th Street South. All the plant material was in good condition and matched the approved plans.
 - Final inspection of 4201 Wilsons BLVD to confirm that the existing canopy matches the site conditions. The site complied, and the Master CO was released.
 - At the Crystal City Water Park, solutions were found to conserve existing trees with some conflicts with proposed tree grates, by temporarily transplanting these large trees, and improving the soil in which they are growing.

DES

- Staff met with contracted Inspector to plant two trees and daffodils at Washington Boulevard and N Pershing Drive but work was postponed.
- Tree planting was completed at the new Arlington Facilities Expanded Parking Lot at 31st St and S Fern St. Two trees were rejected due to stem-girdling roots. Shrub planting and replacements should happen within the next week.
- Army Navy Drive Complete Streets is moving forward in the construction phase, and the Army Navy Drive Missing Link multi-modal plan is nearing review completion.
- The Boundary Channel Drive project is moving forward in the construction phase. This is a VDOT project that is coordinating with the county. Staff are cautiously optimistic that we will get some tree replacement on VDOT right-of-way.
- Staff inspected the planted portions of the Columbia Pike multi-modal project and requested some replacements and record updates.
- Staff approved LDA permits for segments C and D of the projects, and are actively working with DES construction personnel on the construction portion of segment F and on the retaining wall still outstanding under construction on segment H/I.
- The transit-way extension to the Pentagon is under construction in two segments, one segment way just approved, and one was reviewed and sent back for revision. These will reduce tree canopy and staff is actively working to resolve replacements.
- Staff approved the Gulf Branch Green Streets permit. This project will consist of 5 stormwater facilities in the Gulf Branch watershed, along with revised intersections and sidewalks. There

will be some impact to a large red oak in the park. Staff will work with construction personnel to limit disturbance.

- The Buck site along N Quincy St will have its tree planting buffer improved, to comply with the site use permit.

Parks

- Urban Forester visited Ed's Plant world in Maryland to tag trees for the project on Short Bridge Park. 15 Trees were installed to complete the Potomac Yard 4-mile connection. Tree preservation controls are still active and will be removed once the project is complete.
- Reforestation at Marcey Road Park, 45 trees were installed on site along with native shrubs and grasses. The plant material was approved, and the tree protection would come down in the next couple of days.
- Site inspection between 18th street and South Hayes Street for the Easement Request for the underground Duct Bank. Work started with a lack of tree protection. The site inspector will remove the wood pile around trees and install a tree protection fence before duct bank excavation starts. 3 trees were already removed per the approved plan.
- Discussion with park management at Dark St Park to discuss the resurfacing of the path and the reconstruction of the stairs. They discussed the importance of maintaining the art legacy component with texture, color, and preservation of the original design. Staff is working with Arts and Parks Management on managing the trees for views, and on suggestions for repairing some foot traffic issues without affecting the mature trees.
- Hillside Park meeting to discuss and mark the proposed reforestation planting at this park. 75 proposed trees will be planted at the end of October.
- 5641 N Four Mile Run Drive to discuss the solution to the stormwater runoff at Bluemont Park. FNR is requesting a proposed drawing to determine the impact on the trees.

By-right projects

- Staff continues to work on reviewing a High amount of ROW permits.
- Soil profile rebuilding at 1912 North Hollister Street. The site passed the SPR test, forestry joined the developer at 2016 N Inglewood to provide them with key elements of the soil profile rebuilding. Staff is helping developers understand SPR requirements on their projects with courtesy meetings.

Schools

- Staff are working with APS to plant trees at Hoffman Boston school.
- At The Heights school, plans are being finalized for the recreational field, which will have raised tree pits to meet replacement requirements and zoning ordinance.

Federal

- No major updates

Tree Planting:

- Replacement tree list for both Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 was compiled and sent to Davey. There are 18 trees in need of replacement from the Fall 2021 season and 79 trees in need of replacement from the Spring 2022 season.
- Deer protection season is here and we have a stockpile of supplies tree stewards can access. Tree stewards can now protect trees in the areas they have identified as prone to deer damage.
- Tree inspection with Davey at South Riding Nursery has been scheduled for 10 November.

- Tree planting will commence early November quadrant by quadrant starting with the Southeast. The contractor has planned 3 to 4 crews for this effort and plans to have all 500 trees in the ground by Christmas.

Outreach and volunteer coordination:

- 3 foresters and our tree maintenance supervisor attended the Mac-Isa conference.
- A trip to White House Natives to tag the trees for Eco Action. About 175 trees were selected and will be planted on private property through the fall planting season.
- Staff continues to work with Tree Stewards on the pilot structural pruning program.
- Staff presented on urban forestry programs for the Neighborhood College program.

Personnel:

- No major updates

Other:

- Staff met with Dominion Energy, both transmission and distribution staff, to discuss tree planting and tree maintenance.
- Tree maintenance staff will be attending the Tree Care Industry Association Conference in Charlotte, NC, in November.

Commissioner Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

Ryan Delaney, DPR Principal Planner, provided a summary of preliminary public feedback on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP). Public comments mirrored many of those shared by FNRC, such as the need for more urgency in the plan, a desire for more forceful recommendations, and a focus on steps that can be taken in the near term. There was also a preliminary discussion about setting priorities in the next draft of the plan. We will have a more in-depth presentation of the public comments at the November 7 NRJAG meeting.

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan

I represented the FNRC at the October 19 Long Range Planning Committee meeting on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan. While only five Planning Commissioners were in attendance, there was a good discussion, especially focusing on the harmonization of the various elements of the Comprehensive Plan and how to raise these issues up in the hierarchy of plans. LRPC requested another meeting on the plan to review the next draft.

Park and Recreation Commission (Colt Gregory)

Stormwater Mitigation

The DES (Aileen Winquist) and CPHD (Nick Rodgers) provided a briefing on a potential change to Arlington County Zoning that would likely affect parks. The change would allow use of Public Lands like parks, school grounds, and rights of way for stormwater mitigation projects. Projects range from stormwater rain gardens to large scale underground water retention vaults (e.g. under the sports field next to Cardinal elementary in Westover).

W&OD Trail Improvements

PRC is concerned with potential encroachment into the Four Mile Run resource protection area buffer. The County Board has not as yet agreed to the project. The Board has directed staff to balance the need for transportation safety/capacity improvements against protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

The quarterly meeting had a full agenda including updates on the 2023 CIP, Stormwater Management Zoning study, FNRP, and the study and policy recommendations for alcohol in public parks. The consultants are also wrapping up the natural trails survey and there will likely be a meeting soon to go over that report.

Planning Activities/SPRC (Steve Sockwell and Caroline Haynes)

Joyce Motors (Oct. 13)

This is a 11 story residential building in the recent Clarendon sector Plan update area. I gave kudos to the developer for exceeding the sector plan's tree canopy coverage goals (set at 15%) by coming in at 16%. In addition there are substantial landscaping next to the building to attract pollinators, etc. Still, the building itself has a modernistic white facade, and I advised adding more green touches to make the building look less austere.

Bingham Center (Oct. 20)

This is a two building project, a hotel and residential project that face out on Wilson Blvd. and abuts the Joyce Motors site. Landscaping, etc. weren't on the agenda, so they will be covered in the next SPRC. In general committee members seemed pleased with the project and there was not much pushback on the proposal.

Ballston/Holiday Inn (Oct.24)

This was an unusual meeting because the developer had not submitted the basic 4.1 Plans, so the staff really couldn't comment. This came about because the developer who's proposing a seven story residential building that would face Fairfax Drive and two sets of lower rise triplexes behind the building, got negative feedback on the initial plans. So, the developer came in with a tentative revised plan. Generally the revised plans (one Committee member called the original plan the worst that he had seen in his Planning Commission experience) were favorably received. Of interest to us, there were unusually detailed tree plantings shown on the designs. These however aren't the plans (because the project is still premature) but indicate the developer's intent. At least two more SPRC meetings are planned, so we'll have to stay on top of things.

Long Range Planning Committee meeting on the Missing Middle Housing Study (Oct. 17)

Because I didn't have anything else to do (just kidding!) I attended the LRPC on our Committee's behalf. The LRPC members (mostly Planning Commissioners) were largely supportive of the staff's efforts and applauded the refinements to the study. From our perspective, I think it's fair to say the staff recognizes a community concern about loss of trees due to proposed zoning changes, but is undeterred in pushing forward. Staff seems to be floating a plan that would allow the County to require a certain number of trees on each tract. However staff also doesn't want to make any prescriptive requirements so onerous that people would not take advantage of the program, so the details are unclear how this would work. I asked staff how other cities that have implemented a similar program (liked. Portland OR) handled tree canopy loss, but staff didn't know. I'm sure we'll learn more as the Study evolves.

Public Facilities Review Commission (Kate Donohue)

The BLPC/PFRC review process for the Schematic Design of the Arlington Career Center Project has concluded. APS presented the Schematic Design to the School Board on October 13, 2022.

Due to current construction inflation costs, changes were made to the ACC schematic design and the base educational specifications were revised. The primary change includes adjustments to the footprint of the building's ground floor, which creates additional open space at the corner of South Walter Reed Drive and Seventh Street South.

The Arlington Career Center Project Schematic Design Update presentation is currently available online to view and includes details of the revisions to the schematic design on slide #2 of the presentation. The visuals of the building and site plan have also been updated and are indicated with "new slide" in the presentation.

Langston Highway (Caroline Haynes)

I [Caroline Haynes] represented the FNRC at the Long Range Planning Committee on Oct. 25 where staff presented the Preliminary Concept Plan. I and other commission members noted that our respective commissions had not yet received presentations on the plan so our views were personal reactions and not necessarily representative of our commissions. Much of the discussion focused on the paring down of height and density along the corridor, as previously envisioned, largely in response to feedback from adjacent neighbors. With the lower height and density, there will be less economic incentive to redevelop and reduced opportunities for community benefits such as larger public space parcels and plantable spaces for trees and other gathering areas. There was also lots of discussion about the reduced opportunities for affordable housing along Langston Blvd. Staff noted that the paring back of allowable height and density will likely mean that the vision of the plan as a "green street", with more walkable and bikeable sections will also take much longer to come to fruition.

Tree Stewards (Noreen Hannigan)

Tree Steward volunteers (20 of them) helped plant 305 trees and shrubs in Douglas Park in early October. The "Miyawaki Method" was employed in the restoration effort. To learn more about it, check out [Urban-forests.com/miyawaki-method/](https://urban-forests.com/miyawaki-method/). This month, Tree Stewards also accompanied some corporate volunteers during an EcoAction/Tree Equity canvass through Arlington View. The groups left door hangers on how to get free trees, and will follow up with residents who asked for more information.

https://07161569224209384003.googlegroups.com/attach/37fc6232c547c/IMG_2324.jpg?part=0.1&view=1&vt=ANaJVrGcpHSj6VeLDAuiG-xppTSRzkMTs5DbJGQzkvY1-6eopKT0t-jZz-feVWmginaqm_YFSvNSRi_t4wiXkjLnuNYvmFWt0UIdZrYtfh-IOj2Dv-hhfk. In addition, Tree Stewards helped at this month's Tree Giveaway event with Arlington County. Tree Steward volunteers were on the scene to help residents pick out their trees, hand out information on care and watering, and answer questions.

Tree Canopy Fund (Kate Donohue)

On October 6, Tree Stewards joined me on a trip to White House Natives in Luray, VA, to tag trees for planting this fall. We selected 156 native trees, plus a few others to provide replacements.

Tree Maintenance Pilot

A total of 33 applications requesting tree maintenance have been received--no more applications will be accepted. Three did not qualify, three require more information, and 17 have been assessed, with the remainder in process. The arborist contractor is NatureScape. Of those assessed, the majority have been approved for various maintenance activities including pruning, soil decompaction, mulching, and bracing.

A contract with RTEC Treecare to perform the maintenance work has been signed. In some cases, it will be necessary to remove impediments such as fences and garden borders; EcoAction is looking into possibly another contract to handle these types of tasks.

The pilot is budgeted for \$50,000. Once the budget is spent, the program will be assessed for the future.

Bicycle Advisory Committee (Noreen Hannigan)

The Bicycle Advisory Committee met on Monday, October 3. (1) A representative from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (Kevin O'Brien) updated the Committee on the "Capital Trails Coalition" efforts to connect existing and proposed bike trails and lanes as well as gaps in Arlington County. He said they are considering using permeable asphalt and possibly fine gravel where they have to install new surface. The trail that the group discussed the most was the "Cemetery Wall Trail" (between Arlington Cemetery and Route 110). (2) Next, Valerie Mosley, Transportation Planning and Capital Projects Management Bureau Chief (DES), talked about work being done to update the charters of the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Advisory Committees. Some of the goals are to align the 3 charters, encourage diversity, and allow for more multi-modal communications. We talked about the differences between committees and commissions, which many members weren't aware of. There will be a 30-day public comment period (to be announced on the websites of those committees). (3) We ran out of time for the final agenda item to talk about how other jurisdictions around the world have addressed bike and traffic safety; however, links to what's done in Massachusetts, Japan, Canada, and the Netherlands can be found on the agenda: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/commissions/documents/bac/october-bac-meeting-agenda.pdf>

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Vacant)

No report

Neighborhood Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

No report

Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission (Shawn Norton)

No report

Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)

No report

Arlington Public Schools (Steven Bernheisel)

APS reported on future planting at Hoffman Boston school, collaboration with Tree Stewards pruning team. \$25,000 for tree planting in next year.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)

No report

New business

Phil Klingelhofer mentioned the change of name of NCAC to Arlington Neighborhood.

Colt Gregory mentioned the W&OD trail study. Josh suggested providing input on widening of trail.

David Howell thanked APS for the news, and discussed W&OD trail, and getting input before design.

Phil Klingelhofer mentioned needing backup commissioners for several commissions

Phil Klingelhofer suggested a letter supporting APS collaboration with the associated departments. Kit volunteered to help with the letter.

Josh Handler mentioned the Missing Middle Housing Study.

Meeting adjourned at **9:01 PM**.