

**Urban Forestry Commission**  
**October 26, 2017**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Nora Palmatier, Chair  
Patricia Norland  
Caroline Haynes  
Paul Campanella  
David Howell  
John Carey  
Steve Campbell

**State and County Staff**

Brian Keightley, DPR Liaison  
Vincent Verweij, DPR  
Alonso Abugattas, DPR

**Guests**

None

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

Ed Hilz will be leaving the UFC in November.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Pre-planning Discussion for Urban Forest Master Plan**

The following issues were discussed, to prepare for the planning and outreach process for the UFMP:

1. Transferring the POPS process, at a smaller scale, with improvements from lessons learned
  - a. The POPS timeline was handed out, for reference
2. What resources are needed
3. What the outreach plan needs to look like
4. Interviewing former UFC chair Larry Finch, and former staff
5. Comparing to other plans around the country
6. What type of survey will be needed
7. Will it be an update vs. a rewrite
8. Using the UFMP as an education document
9. Providing a mechanism for regular updates of the plan, potentially in the appendices
10. Proposed sequence of kickoff meeting, scoping, review, with:
  - a. Internal staff draft
  - b. Public draft
  - c. Final draft
11. Meeting with outside the norm stakeholder groups, such as developers and APS
12. Advisory group similar to POPS, board and manager appointed
13. Providing incentives for developers
14. The need for facilitators during public meetings.

Action items are:

1. Come back to this discussion in December, after the UFC has re-read the original UFMP, and explored options
2. Explore existing documents, to see if pre-planning documentation already exists.

### **Approval of September Minutes**

The September minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Staff reports**

#### **Brian Keightley**

##### Management and Operations

1. Still working with county purchasing to rebid the tree planting contract. Current contract with Davey Tree has been extended to December.
2. Getting calls on trees in stress. Latest report that we have moved landscape staff over to extra trucks. Running three watering trucks, five days a week. We will run trucks until the deciduous tree have lost most of their leaves, but hope recent rain keeps up.
3. Fall tree giveaway was successful. Just over 80% pickup of the 500 trees ordered. There were approximately 90 no shows. The TreeStewards were out in full force both Saturday (10 tree stewards) and Wednesday (6 tree stewards) helping residents select a tree, as well as explaining planting and long-term care and maintenance. This educational component of the program which the TreeStewards organization provides does a great deal in explaining why Arlington County supports this program and how these trees contribute to higher environmental quality for the public.
4. Hiring process underway for the Urban Forest Manager, hope to have a candidate selected and on boarded before the Christmas break.
5. Continued planning for FY19 budget and we are getting creative to keep programs and initiatives moving forward.
6. Brian Keightley and Vincent Verweij held a meeting with the Arlington Tree Action Group. The discussion was very cordial and productive.

#### **Vincent Verweij**

##### Tree canopy study:

1. The study is underway. We're discussing formatting of the report, and have not heard any indication of complications.

##### Schools:

1. Reed Elementary school got its first staff walkthrough last month, to see the site and its complexities. From forestry's perspective, there is a nice grove of trees on APS property, along the Northwestern edge of the site, and a park area, with our Champion black walnut, along N Lexington St. No concept exists yet, but our concerns are being communicated to APS.

##### VDOT:

1. There is a plan in discussion about soundwalls along I-395, in concert with the proposed Express lanes. The sound walls may have significant tree impact along the corridor. More information here: [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/395\\_express.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/395_express.asp)

#### High speed rail:

1. A proposed rail line from Richmond to DC may impact some tree canopy along Arlington, particularly near Long Bridge Park. There is a Draft Environmental Impact Statement available for comment here: <http://dc2rvarail.com/>

#### Parks:

1. Staff is working to plant trees in Bluemont park, along the stream, the “glen”, and in concert with disc golf partners
2. Rosslyn Highlands Park is going through some fine-grade design. Some trees are being shifted around, but no major conflicts have come up yet. I still anticipate this meeting our goals for tree canopy.

#### DES:

1. Windy Run stream restoration project is still underway. Tree planting to be completed in the early spring.

#### Site plans:

1. Crystal Houses III: don't be too discouraged by this project. The proposed park now shows a fairly major realignment, and many more trees are preserved. I believe this was due to Parks and Rec comments, as well as other individual comments
2. Crystal Square: A concept proposal came through on this project. Many opportunities exist here for expansion of tree canopy, and preservation: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/crystal-square-retail/>
3. Ballston Quarter review is finishing up. This project will have great large tree pits, with structural cells, and I'm excited to see how it will look, and improve this area.
4. In coordination with Rosslyn Highlands Park, 1555 Wilson Blvd is also being reviewed, to ensure maximized tree canopy, and appropriate street tree infrastructure

#### Planning:

1. Staff is helping with the One-stop permitting process, to streamline permitting in Arlington county (without affecting policy or regulations). We hope to see this in place next year.

#### Outreach:

1. I worked on a blog post on storm response. This is something I did a lot more (luckily), earlier in my career here, but it's still something we have to be prepared for:  
<https://environment.arlingtonva.us/2017/10/forestry-and-extreme-storm-response/>

#### Other:

1. I was invited to help review national ANSI standards for tree protection on construction projects, with the Tree Care Industry Association. This meeting had forestry professionals from around the country, to set updated standards for protecting trees on a national basis.

#### Adam Lipera

#### Operations

- Continuing to review 311's, Web Submissions, and customer calls pertaining to County trees. We are receiving approximately 25 submissions per week, at this time.
- Performed several tree inspections in Historic Districts, per resident requests. All sites required tree removals with the approved and agreed upon tree replacements.
- Still receiving a high amount of requests from the Villages, Wards, and Community Center in Fairlington for crown cleans (which County and contractor crews are working on now), as well as crown thinning (which have been deferred to late November-early December).

## Tree Removals

- Seeing a large number of homeowner submissions and consequently removals of street trees due to sidewalk and driveway apron damage. Some cases both sidewalk and tree needed removal and replacement. Replacement trees are being scheduled, where appropriate.
- Removing several dead oak street trees around CHP.
- Removing several dead sycamore street trees around the 600 block of Army Navy Drive.
- Removing approximately one dozen dead street trees in Rosslyn.
- Removed 3 hazardous poplars from Bluemont next to the playground and 1 near Route 50.
- Removing 1 large dead tree in Lacey Woods by N George Mason Drive at the park entrance near the trail.
- Removing several dead median trees along various locations along N George Mason Drive and replanting.

## Site Plans and Permitting

- Attending/inspecting/reviewing on average 20 preconstruction meetings, certificate of occupancy final inspections, and site plan reviews per week for single family home projects.

## Projects

- Testing Cartograph work order system.
- Studying for my TRAQ course/exam in early November.
- The Specimen Tree Report has been written and given to Brian for final review before it gets sent to the County Board. 4 trees qualified for 2017.

## Andrew Knapik

### Tree Planting Program Update for UFC

1. The contractor will begin the Fall 2017 tree planting on November 1, 2017. Once the contractor has begun, the Planting Coordinator will check the work to ensure proper planting procedures have taken place.
2. The Tree Planting Program will be planting 528 New Trees in the fall. Park Trees 319 and Street Tree 209.

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• American Elm-	52	Red Maple-	4
• American Linden-	24	Deodor Cedar-	1
• White Oak-	24	Leyland Cypress-	1
• Blackgum-	21	American Hornbeam-	10
• Staghorn Sumac-	1	American Beech-	14
• Tulip Tree-	23	Holly-	21
• River Birch-	9	N. Red Oak-	4
• Chestnut Oak-	4	Overcup Oak-	1
• Yellowwood-	15	Nuttall Oak-	1
• Redbud-	80	Sweetgum-	6
• Hop Hornbeam-	14	Baldcypress -	5
• Little Leaf Linden-	17	Kentucky Coffee-	1
• Pin Oak-	10	Fringe Tree-	4
• Swamp White Oak-	16	White Redbud-	1
• Sycamore-	15	Magnolia Virginiana-	2
• Willow Oak-	21	Cherry-	8

• Galaxy Magnolia-	1	Paper Bark Maple-	4
• Crape Myrtle-	6	Persimmon-	5
• Dogwood-	37	Common Hackberry-	4
• Photinia-	2	Service Berry-	11
• London Plane-	28		

3. The Tree Planting Coordinator has been exploring county right-of-way islands and land that has not planted in previous years.

4. Tree Planting Coordinator has identified and begun clearing areas of undesirables for Fall 2018 plantings. This will help increase the tree canopy as well as beautify and increase useable park space.

5. Tree Planting Coordinator has been working on the Spring 2018 list and has the majority of it completed.

### **Commission Member Reports (provided in advance by email unless otherwise noted)**

#### Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes

Alex Sanders, who has been hired to coordinate the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with Arlington and neighboring jurisdictions, provided information on progress to date on the implementation of the grant to focus on targeted invasive removal and habitat restoration projects along the W&OD trail. Dominion Power is a party to the CWMA and has provided matching funds as part of the demonstration projects. Given that the grant is short term (18 months), other jurisdictions are seeking additional funding opportunities to build the CWMA into a longer term regional project.

#### Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

We had a packed meeting on Tuesday and PRC will be sending letters to the County Board on the following issues:

- 1) Recommended name of South Bridge Park for new park along Four Mile Run in Potomac Yard (formerly referred to as South Park).
- 2) Update from NOVA Parks, including project at Upton Hills which will refresh existing amenities, expand playground and add new amenities including a ropes course.
- 3) Special General Land Use Plan for Kirkwood and Washington Blvd. site, going to County Board in November. Concerns were raised about adding so many more residential units with limited plans for open space. The site also proposes mixed use development with the YMCA and residential units.
- 4) Crystal House III, and new privately owned park with public access easement as part of project. Issues raised about excessive tree loss in order to construct park have been addressed somewhat, though concerns were raised about planting of canopy trees too close to the buildings.
- 5) Closeout funding and recommendation that some funds should be directed toward park land acquisition.
- 6) Concerns about 4MRVWG process and implications for park planning
- 7) Benjamin Banneker Park Framework Plan

## Planning activities

### Reed School

PFRC Reed School met last evening. New elementary school will most likely be sited around existing footprint but multiple issues with utilities, sewers, stormwater. Next meeting site walk Nov. 15. Need alternate for 3 meetings.

### Four Mile Run Valley Visioning – Nora Palmatier

No report this month

### Red Cross Site (Evelio Rubiella/Nora Pamatier)

Attended first meeting, much discussion of preserving trees but also of more parking. Next meeting probably Nov 20

## Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

Some applications already in! Orientation program is Nov. 6, Shirlington Library. Education grant has been approved to TreeStewards which other members can describe. (Brian, Evelio, John on committee).

## Tree Stewards – Steve Campbell

Fellow Commissioners,

The latest news on Tree Stewards:

- 1) A new round of the Tree Canopy Fund has begun, and as always TS are actively involved with advising applicants.
- 2) The County's Tree Distribution took place on 10/14 and 10/18 and was a success. Nora reports that 'no-shows', people who reserve a tree and don't pick it up, are still a significant problem.
- 2) TS are also actively involved in helping with nominations for Notable and Champion trees, which are due November 15th.
- 3) TS will assist in the planting of 140 trees at Bluemont Park by overseeing volunteer employees from Gartner Inc. on 11/6. Vincent is organizing this.
- 4) A TS group has a new project at Wakefield HS. They will be removing stakes and doing 'functional' pruning on 125 trees there.
- 5) TS had a display at the "Young Professionals Care" event hosted by @VolArl recently.
- 6) A grant received by TSAA (Tree Stewards Arl/Alex) from the Arbor Day Foundation financed a tree planting by TD Bank employees in 4 Mile Run Park in Alexandria. TS supervised the volunteers. Tree Stewards also helped with tree plantings at Chambliss Crossing on Alexandria and in Falls Church.

### Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

No Va Forestry Conference - Nov. 9, Algonquin Regional Park Health Benefits of Trees Register at [www.VirginiaTrees.org](http://www.VirginiaTrees.org)

### Single Family Homes – Nora Palmatier

No report this month

### Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission – Phil Klingelhofer

On October 12, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting, with two significant items on the agenda:

#### Discussion / Action Items

- Update on DES Projects, Ramzi Awwad, DES Engineering Bureau Chief. Ramzi Awwad came to the membership about a year and a half ago to discuss changes in the Engineering Bureau and how they would affect NC Projects and improve turnaround time for approved projects. In the October 2017 meeting, he gave us an update on the implementation of those changes and showed that they have dramatically reduced the backlog of approved projects waiting to be completed. This is very good news for NCAC. For a status report on all approved NC projects, [click here](#).
- Discussion of December Funding Round and 2018 Bond. Based on the remaining balance of funds from the 2016 Bond, and the potential for additional cost overruns for approved projects, the NCAC voted to defer the December funding round and revisit the situation next Spring. Given the significant increases in the cost of projects over the past five years, due to construction cost increases and costs of additional regulatory and other requirements on construction projects by Arlington County and Virginia, it is clear that fewer and fewer projects can be funded unless the NC Bond is increased. Neighborhood representatives were asked to work with their civic associations for letters to the County urging that the 2018 Bond be increased from \$12 million to \$18 million. Samples of past letters are attached.

### Public Spaces Master Plan – Caroline Haynes

The advisory committee met on October 5 and reviewed the key themes and findings from the significant amount of public comment received on the draft plan. We received lots of positive feedback on the draft, but the advisory group is focusing on areas for improvements. Key issues include: 1) support for and more specificity of casual use space; 2) protection of natural resources (especially trees and trails); 3) level of service (providing more detail on methodology and maps); 4) synthetic fields and lighting (responding to request from Board for more detailed recommendations), and; 5) land acquisition (expansion of options/tools for land acquisition). The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for October 30.

### Environment and Energy Conservation Commission - Kimberly Fedinatz

Last month a concerned group of Arlingtonians emailed E2C2 a presentation about the Donaldson Run stream bank project. We don't know anything about the project because it was presented years ago. So, E2C2 is considering inviting in County staff to present its upper tributary project. If we do invite them, we will suggest the staff visit UFC, too.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Jim McGlone

No report this month

Arlington Public Schools – Jim Meikle

No report this month

Virginia Cooperative Extension – Kirsten Ann Conrad

State Urban Agriculture Summit October 5-6

Ongoing: Volunteer Training Master Gardeners since Labor day, Graduation on 11/14.

Ongoing: Master Naturalists Volunteer Training through December 14

Tree related Public education over last quarter:

Bonair Shade and Sunny Garden Tours 10/1

Simpson Garden Tree and Garden Walk 10/10

Autumn fest at Glen Carlyn Library Garden 9/17

Tree Selection for Small Urban Landscapes 10/11

Composting and Yard Waste Education 10/14

At Wednesdays in the Library: Fruit Tree culture and selection 9/20

Sustainable Landscape Education Walter Reed 8/28

Over 55+ Tree Selection and Tree Walk at Walter Reed CC. 9/25

NEWS from VT.edu and VCE

Fall Color is not expected to be very good because of Drought  
<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2017/10/unirel-fallcolor2017.html>

Climate Change:

I am researching potential implications for our area of climate change and species migration. There are interesting questions out there about what a “native” plant is in the face of climate change and the significance of introducing more southern species into areas where they have never been before.

Articles related to climate change and species migration:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/09/170913192459.htm>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/03/many-tree-species-in-eastern-us-may-be-unable-to-adapt-to-changing-climate-study-finds/>



Upcoming events from your local Extension office and from your Extension Forestry Specialist, Adam Downing. VCE publications access: <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/>

**\*\*NoVa Urban Forestry Conference Urban Forests for Your Health: How Trees Can Save Your Life**

November 9 – Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA For anyone with professional or volunteer interests in trees & people. <http://www.treesvirginia.org/events/paid/77-nova-conference>

**\*\*Virginia Forest Health Conference January 29-30 - Staunton, VA** Details and registration forthcoming: <https://www.vafhp.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vafhp/>

**\*\*14th Annual Landowners Woods & Wildlife Conference February 24 – Culpeper, VA**

New topics every year! “One-stop shop” for woodland owners wanting to better manage their land and citizen scientists desiring to expand their applied knowledge base!

Details and registration forthcoming: <https://forestupdate.frec.vt.edu/index.html>

**\*\*Beginning of October, Arlington was the site for the 2017 Virginia Urban Agriculture Summit**

In Celebration of Urban Agriculture Month: Resilience.org’s Food Forest information page: <http://www.resilience.org/stories/2014-08-01/20-urban-food-forests-from-around-the-world/>

## **New Business**

### **Letters:**

South Park: letter was approved by the commission

Accessory Dwellings: letter was approved with added sentence about setbacks.

### **Fairfax tree commission**

Com. Norland attended the Fairfax tree commission. There was a short discussion on providing incentives for developers to recognize good tree preservation.

## **Next Meeting**

November 16, 2017 – 2100 Clarendon Blvd – Room 311