

Urban Forestry Commission
May 28, 2015
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Dean Amel
Nora Palmatier
Caroline Haynes
Phil Klingelhofer
Paul Campanella
Kelly Criswell
Steve Campbell
Per Midboe
Karen Kumm Morris
Scott Brinitzer

State and County Staff

Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Richard Tucker, CPHD
Elizabeth Weigle, CHPD
James Meikle, APS

Guests

Evan Pritchard

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Update on WRAPS Draft Concept plan – Richard Tucker, CPHD

Richard Tucker (CPHD) updated the commission on the draft Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) concept plan. Existing sites within the study area include: Wilson School, Fire Station #10, 7-Eleven, 1555 Wilson Blvd. Office Building (Penzance site), and the Queens Courts Apartments (APAH site).

The goals outlined for the planning study's charge included:

- A multi-story secondary school with up to 1,300 seats;
- Recreation and open space that is up to 60,00 square feet in size; which could include athletic field(s) and interior space within the school to be used jointly by the school and the community, and other open space that replaces the existing playground and basketball court located within Rosslyn Highlands Park or provides similar needed passive and active park and recreational amenities for use by the community;
- A new fire station;
- Affordable housing; and
- Energy efficiency/sustainability.

A series of meetings led to the development of a preliminary concept plan in February. Further direction was provided by the County Board during work sessions in March and May. The current concept plan includes joint development of the County and Penzance parcels, to include a fire station on the ground floor of the mixed use development building at the eastern end of

Wilson Boulevard. This public-private partnership will provide an opportunity for leveraging joint financing for the new fire station, which is not currently included in the CIP.

There are currently two possible sites and several configurations possible for the new school. The final location and layout of the school is to be determined through a Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) process.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will lead a coordinated planning process for recreation and open space within the study area. This will include rebuilding Rosslyn Highlands park, a pedestrian walkway leading to the park, a small park on the residential development site (currently Queens Court), and recreational/field space on the APS site. A landscaped buffer is envisioned along the Wilson Boulevard frontage of school property. The concept plan shows the existing 7-Eleven site as being for future public use; however, there are currently no plans to acquire the site. Questions have also been raised about the possibility of extending the APS field into a portion of Rosslyn Highlands Park. The school building would need to be reconfigured in order to accommodate an expanded field.

Maximizing tree canopy is one of the “Sustainability/Environmental” Guiding Principles of the Draft WRAPS Plan. In addition to street trees in improved streetscapes and cross sections along perimeter streets, the plan also includes street trees in 6.5 ft. planting strips along a new north/south street between Wilson Boulevard and 18th Street North.

A Request to Advertise (RTA) for the WRAPS Plan is scheduled for the Planning Commission and the County Board in June. The County Board will consider adoption of the Plan in July.

Steve Campbell expressed concern that the draft WRAPS Plan does not provide adequate open space or tree canopy. He noted that environmental benefits, such as reducing heat island effects, are maximized by planting trees in groves, rather than widely spaced individual trees. He added that it will be important to address opportunities for tree planting in the open space planning process.

Mr. Campbell asked whether it is possible to reduce the footprint of the Penzance mixed use development building, since the residential towers don't cover the entire footprint. He noted that the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) also discussed this possibility. Richard Tucker explained that it would be difficult to reduce the building's footprint, since lower level space is required for the fire station and grocery store that will be housed in the building.

Dean Amel noted that the new north/south street will be rather narrow, with no parking lane. Although plans include a 6.5 ft. planting strip for street trees (which will benefit root growth), there is concern that trees will be adjacent to traffic and susceptible to damage by trucks and buses. The commission felt that columnar trees should be specified for planting along the new street.

Karen Kumm Morris commented that County Board Chair, Mary Hynes, mentioned that reducing the footprint or realigning the Penzance building may be a way to provide more open space. Mr. Tucker explained that the original footprint of the building has already been reduced

to the point where it can still function efficiently for the office use envisioned. Ms. Kumm Morris noted that new concepts for use of office space may provide more flexibility for design.

Phil Klingelhofer asked why Arlington County is not currently proceeding with a plan to acquire the parcel currently owned by 7-Eleven. Richard Tucker explained that funding does not exist, and that the time required to acquire funding and work out a compensation plan for loss of business revenue would extend beyond 2019, when the school is planned to open.

Dean Amel will circulate a draft UFC letter to commission members for submission to the County Board before the June 13 Board meeting. The letter will incorporate input from Steve Campbell, Karen Kumm Morris and others. Caroline Haynes suggested that the letter should also reference a likely increase in dog owners moving into residential units, and the need for designs to accommodate this trend.

Realize Rosslyn: Draft Rosslyn Sector Plan Update – Elizabeth Weigle, CPHD

Elizabeth Weigle (CPHD) briefed the commission on the Draft Rosslyn Sector Plan Update. A Request to Advertise (RTA) for the plan is scheduled for the June 13, County Board meeting. The County Board will consider adoption of the Plan in July.

The draft plan was developed according to the vision principles and policy directives contained in the Rosslyn Plan Framework, adopted by the County Board in 2014. The plan addresses four main elements:

- Urban Design;
- Building Heights;
- Transportation; and,
- Parks and Open Space.

The draft plan converts North Lynn Street, Fort Myer Drive and North Kent Street from one-way to two-way; extends 18th Street North to Arlington Ridge Road, connecting a series of parks/open spaces; expands/enhances several existing parks; and, adds Rosslyn Plaza Park and an esplanade.

Some sections of the 18th Street extension will be for pedestrian/bicycle use only, while others will be open to vehicles. Enhancements are planned for Gateway Park and Freedom Park. It was noted that the revitalization of Gateway Park should consider the ability of the deck to support more soil for trees. Rosslyn Plaza Park will be created near the eastern end of the 18th Street extension. It will be a large park, similar in size to Gateway Park. An esplanade is envisioned to provide river views at some locations. New trail connections to the river are also proposed.

Scott Brinitzer asked whether there are plans to establish a connection between Rosslyn and the Iwo Jima memorial, which is now very difficult to traverse. Though not currently included in the plan, Elizabeth Weigle felt that it may be possible to explore opportunities for connections.

The proposed plan includes a “peaks and valleys” approach for building heights and forms, which would preserve view corridors but allow for a variety of building heights.

Among the goals for sustainability, the plan sets an aggressive goal for increasing tree canopy coverage from the existing coverage of 4.6% to future coverage of 15%. It also recommends using tree pit systems to help manage stormwater, as well as other stormwater management strategies such as green roofs and the integration of rainwater harvesting systems.

Goals for public parks and open space, include: providing connectivity between parks and open spaces; revitalizing existing parks and open spaces to provide active recreational opportunities; and, providing opportunities for informal congregation/reflection. The draft plan categorizes parks and open space as: destination spaces, recreation spaces, revitalization spaces, and linking spaces.

Karen Kumm Morris commented that the draft plan does a good job of balancing open space elements. She was particularly supportive of the plan’s vision to connect parks and open spaces, including the 18th Street corridor and connections to the river.

Ms. Kumm Morris feels that the draft plan does a good job of recognizing the importance of trees, and is supportive of the goal to achieve 15% tree canopy coverage. She noted that the goal is aggressive, given the current tree canopy coverage of 4.6%, and will take work to accomplish. She recommends that the plan should also include a goal to increase the amount of soil volume for trees, ideally providing 1,000 cubic feet of soil per tree.

Ms. Kumm Morris noted that it is a challenge to balance the use of tree pit systems to manage stormwater, with tree health and pedestrian needs. She is particularly concerned about the use of “sunken” tree pits, where trees are planted below grade in order to accommodate larger volumes of stormwater infiltration. Such tree pit designs may lead to overly saturated soils and the development anaerobic conditions detrimental to tree health if they do not include a sub-surface drainage system. She also noted that sunken tree pits tend to gather trash, and can pose a hazard to pedestrians. She recommends that a better tree pit/stormwater management design detail should be developed.

Ms. Kumm Morris also recommended that the plan should state that VDOT will not be granted air rights over their properties, so that there are not potential restrictions for planting trees in areas over VDOT right-of-way, such as Gateway Park.

Steve Campbell stressed the importance of having strong connections to parks and open spaces. He noted that it will be particularly important to connect the new Rosslyn Plaza Park (wherever it is finally located) with the 18th Street corridor and the esplanade.

Dean Amel will draft a letter expressing UFC comments on the Draft Rosslyn Sector Plan Update and circulate it to commission members for review before submitting it to the County Board.

Input on Arlington's 2016 Legislative Priorities

County Board Chair, Mary Hynes, has asked commissions to provide input on 2016 legislative priorities by July 17. Last year, the UFC suggested three items for consideration by the County Board: support for legislation to strengthen invasive plant regulations in Virginia; legislation to establish procedures for licensing of arborists in Virginia; and, legislation mandating VDOT to consult more closely with localities and enable local governments to provide more input on VDOT road improvement projects that may result in significant tree removals.

UFC Chair, Dean Amel, suggested that the UFC should focus on legislation to strengthen the regulation of invasive plants in 2016. Delegate Patrick Hope has indicated that he is prepared to work with stakeholders to gather support and propose legislation to change the state's noxious weeds law during the 2016 legislative session.

Mr. Amel also recommended that legislation mandating VDOT to cooperate more closely with local governments should again be one of the UFC's suggested legislative priorities.

Caroline Haynes reported that, in addition to strengthening invasive plant regulations, the Park and Recreation Commission will probably recommend examining criminal background check requirements for volunteers. Some volunteers feel that background check requirements for individuals who do not work with children or handle monetary resources are too cumbersome and have discouraged some potential volunteers.

Mr. Amel asked commission members for any additional input before the June 25, UFC meeting. He will circulate a draft letter for commission input prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 24, 2015 UFC meeting were approved with edits circulated via e-mail.

Staff Reports

- Jamie Bartalon reported that he and Delegate Patrick Hope spoke at the May 21, Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services meeting, urging them to support legislation to strengthen invasive plant regulations. A discussion of the topic was included on the meeting agenda in response to comments submitted earlier by DPR and the UFC. Although the Board of Agriculture's authority to expand the state's list of invasive plants is limited by the definition of "noxious weeds" in the current state law, Board members seemed generally supportive of the need to reduce economic and ecological impacts caused by invasive plant species.

Delegate Hope indicated that he plans to convene a small group of stakeholders representing both sides of the issue to reach consensus on legislative changes that can be supported by the Board of Agriculture and the nursery industry.

- Jamie Bartalon also reported that a Specimen Tree at 3401 N. Kensington Street, nominated by the former owner and recently designated by the County Board for preservation through the County's Tree and Shrub Ordinance, has been removed by the new owner of the property. Arlington County is considering legal actions to enforce the ordinance. State law permits a maximum fine of \$2,500 for the unauthorized removal of a designated Specimen tree.
- Vincent Verweij was unable to attend the May 28, 2015 UFC meeting, but submitted the following staff updates:

Champion trees:

We've had three large champion trees die, unfortunately, but this was not entirely unexpected. They are the following:

Scarlet Oak at Lee Center - This tree had been in decline, and triage involving extensive watering last year did not rescue it;

Chestnut oak at Bluemont - Phil Klingelhofer told me about this one. It fell over in a storm last year, but had already been looking poorly;

Swamp White oak at Bluemont Park (next to one of the shelter) - This tree was in decline for the last few years, and finally didn't leaf out in the spring.

The scarlet oak and swamp white oak will be removed. The Chestnut oak fell in the forest, and will return its nutrients to the soil over time.

Three Oaks Park/Gables:

This park is to be dedicated to the county, with two white oaks and one southern red oak to be preserved. Because of some large deadwood in the white oaks, I worked with the developer to provide decompaction, vertical mulching, horizontal mulching, and watering. We have also started fencing off the area to prevent further parking of vehicles. Hopefully this will keep the park's name accurate. The efforts on behalf of the developer were very quick and appropriate, but there is always a chance we may lose something.

Williamsburg school/Discovery:

Tree planting has started. I changed the species of cherries along 36th St N at the last minute to Kwanzan cherries, as the plan called for Okame cherries, which would not replace these trees in kind, per the community's request. The trees being planted are good stock, and I have been on site several times recently.

Abingdon School:

Planning is ongoing from Schools' perspective. There remains the issue about the location of commemorative trees, which is being worked on.

Parks:

Tuckahoe Park field, Quincy Park playground, and Highview Park are getting close to design completion. Fairlington Park playground and Bluemont Field #3 are being scoped for renovation.

iTree Eco:

I will be attending a training session on this program, which allows us to quantify the monetary and environmental benefits of our tree canopy. I will also send out an email to the Tree Stewards and Master Naturalists for volunteer assistance on this, as there will be about 200 plots to look at. I imagine this can be finished this year, but I say that with caution.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – The NRJAG did not meet in May, but Jason Papacosma will be presenting on the TMDL action plan and implications for implementation on our wetlands, seeps and streams on Monday, June 1 at 7:30 pm at Long Branch Nature Center. DES has asked for comments and feedback on the plan by June 1, and we may work to coordinate comments with E2C2. (All UFC members are welcome to attend.)

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes' Park and Recreation Commission report is attached.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris' Planning Activities report is attached. Ms. Kumm Morris also provided a draft letter containing comments on the Rosslyn Sector Plan Update for UFC consideration (attached). She also noted that a Housing Study report will be released in June. Although she has been informed that the study will not propose building affordable housing on parkland, it may propose incorporating mixed uses into development plans for County facilities.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz's Public Facilities Review Committee report is attached.

Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) – Steve Campbell's Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study report is attached.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – No report.

Community Facilities Study – Nora Palmatier's Community Facilities Study report is attached.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier's Tree Stewards report is attached.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier’s Tree Canopy Fund report is attached.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – Phil Klingelhofer’s Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee report is attached.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier’s Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable report is attached.

Virginia Department of Forestry – No report

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Jim Meikle (APS) reported that young trees which have died at Wakefield High School will be replaced in the fall.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – No report.

New Business

The UFC’s letter on recommendations for Arlington’s 2016 legislative priorities will be finalized at the June 25 meeting.

Dean Amel noted that the UFC will not likely meet in August.

Attachments to May 28, 2015 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

At Tuesday's meeting we heard presentations on the Affordable Housing Study and Implementation Plan. The report includes the language from the Board (PL4PG response) stating that no free-standing affordable housing will be built in parks, but there is some hedging of what exactly that means and some members continue to be concerned about the potential impact of affordable housing being built in conjunction with park facilities and encroaching on parks and park facilities.

We also heard a presentation on the Rosslyn Sector Plan. Members continue to express concerns about the significant projected increase in residential units in Rosslyn with very little in the way of additional parks and open space. There is continued interest in making 18th Street more of a pedestrian corridor (especially on weekends and during the middle of the day) to create more open space and a more welcoming atmosphere for pedestrians and bicyclists. Likewise, there is interest in making as many rooftops green and accessible (even if not open to the public) to take pressure off the limited parks.

We discussed legislative priorities and will also plan to include language supporting Del. Patrick Hope's efforts on invasive species, as well as raising objections to requiring criminal background checks for volunteers working on stewardship projects in our parks. The current push for increased background checks has had a chilling effect on volunteers reluctant to divulge sensitive information amid increases in identity theft. It is also not clear that these checks serve any really purpose in increasing safety nor is the requirement readily enforceable.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

Planning Initiatives

- Community Facilities Study – Continues in subcommittee. May and June meetings cancelled due to conflicts. Study Group will be identifying siting principles. Should have someone from UFC to put forward some principles that protect trees and guide new plantings.
- Realize Rosslyn – Home stretch.. UFC will be presented the Plan by Staff at May 28 mtg. Overall, this is a bold and exciting plan and the section dealing with expanding the tree canopy are welcomed. Plan calls for a 15% tree coverage goal and clearly explains the benefits of expanded tree canopy. However, the Plan needs to support increasing soil volumes above current County standards to sustain healthy, mature trees and text to avoid unsafe swales or sunken tree pits and potential anaerobic conditions for street trees.

UFC should provide written comments to the Planning Commission prior to next week's public hearing on June 3.

- Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) - Steve Campbell has been covering this study. No new information on process.
- Courthouse Square Sector Plan – Staff is finalizing design guidelines. Tentative schedule for a July PC and CB, but may slide given the volume of projects on their July agenda. Need to follow up with staff on status.
- Lee Highway Corridor – This is now an official work program item. Initially started as a citizen led initiative. Go to the Lee Highway Alliance website for more info on the process. But, next fall a charrette will be held end of September to identify a community vision for the corridor. Good opportunity for everyone to promote trees and streetscape.
- Columbia Pike and Crystal City Reassessment – No new information. Could staff please provide more update.
- PSMP – Public Spaces Master Plan underway. Dean and Caroline Haynes are appointed to the advisory committee. Major opportunity to address all open spaces natural areas as well as recreation parks and urban plazas.
- Affordable Housing Study Framework - Policy document. No specific locations for housing cited. Public Hearing scheduled in June, 2015. Staff has publically stated that no parks and open spaces will be considered for public housing but public facilities may be redeveloped with mixed use development including affordable housing.

Site Plans – SPRC Reviews

- SPRC reviews are slowing down somewhat from the high of previous years. Nevertheless, several new site plans are under review.
- Clarendon West (Red Top Cab site Clarendon) – developer is the Shooshan Company. Plans to build 584 housing units in 3 buildings with ground floor retail. Next SPRC is June 8. Appears to have the same issue of insufficient street trees due to the significant setback from the street corners.
- 4000/4040 Fairfax Drive (Webb Bldg.) – Developer is Penzance. Proposal for a 22 story high rise residential bldg. at the corner of Quincy Street and Fairfax in Ballston.
- Pentagon Centre – this is the Costco site in Pentagon and it is a multi-phase project. Residential Phase 1 at corner of 1^{2th} Street and S. Hayes where the Metro is located. Costco corner is not planned for redevelopment for quite a while. Streetscapes should be approved for the length of 1^{2th} Street because this is a link to Metro.

672 N. Glebe Road – across from Ballston Mall. Steve Campbell has been covering this.

The following draft letter on the Rosslyn Sector plan Update was provided for UFC consideration:

Subject: Rosslyn Sector Plan Addendum

Dear Chairman Hynes:

The UFC has reviewed the proposed Rosslyn Sector Plan Addendum and finds that, overall, the

Plan is an excellent roadmap for the future of Rosslyn. The Plan recognizes that Rosslyn is a uniquely urban place within Arlington, has unparalleled views of the Capitol's Monumental Core, and is a major economic engine for the County. Many of the Plan's recommendations address land use, transportation and open spaces, but we are focusing our comments on tree canopy matters.

We are pleased that the Plan recognizes the important environmental and human scale benefits of trees by clearly applying the existing County policy to achieve a 15% tree canopy in such intensely urban areas. Given that the existing tree canopy in Rosslyn is only 4%, it will take a concerted effort to gain the benefits of an increased tree canopy. This goal can be reached over time, however, given the number of future redevelopments and required CIP projects listed in the Plan.

While the Plan describes in considerable length the environmental benefits of tree canopy in the Parks and Open Space section, it would be useful to also reference the current County policy on tree canopy found in the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). The NRMP forms the basis for recommending a 15% tree canopy goal in urban areas. (Jamie and Vincent, please verify)

Rosslyn's urban setting is tough environment for trees with heavily compacted soils, poor drainage and heat reflected from buildings and pavements. In order to survive and even flourish, trees will need more soil volume than current standards of the 5'x12' tree pit can provide. Tree research experts suggest that 1,000 cubic feet of soil for each tree is a desirable goal. We strongly recommend that the Plan include a goal to significantly increase the soil volume for each tree, encouraging up to 1,000 cubic feet per tree.

The Plan also suggests that the tree's planting pit can be used for stormwater management functions. Stormwater management is an important function and needs to be addressed in the Plan. Combining stormwater infiltration, however, within tree planting pits is a challenge. It requires a subsurface drain to convey excess water into the storm sewers because many tree species will die from soggy, anaerobic soils. And, many details used in the region lower the tree in a sunken pit or swale to capture more water volume. These sunken pits collect trash and can be a pedestrian hazard. If Rosslyn enjoyed wider sidewalks than the Plan's recommended clear zones of 6' to 8', then safety might not be an issue. Given the volume of pedestrians with future development and the potential maintenance problems, we recommend that stormwater management be handled in a better design, one that does not create maintenance problems or anaerobic soil conditions. We encourage the County to explore different options to a sunken tree pit.

Finally, we fully endorse the Plan's statements that call for more revitalizing spaces within Rosslyn. Additional language, however, should be added to this section to specifically include trees and landscaping as softscape features.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Dean Amel, Chair
Urban Forestry Commission

Public Facilities Review Committee – Ed Hilz

Stratford Middle School

On May 14, the PFRC held its second meeting regarding the renovation and expansion of the H-B Woodlawn/Stratford building which will house the new Stratford Middle School.

The following is a link to the PFRC website where you can access the Agenda and the Staff Report. The slide presentation made at the April 15 meeting on Stafford is now on the website <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/>. The key information concerns the Design Process which starts on slide 20. Slide 25 shows the Department of Parks and Recreation property that will be needed for the expansion. APS staff said that they would be discussing this issue with DPR. The consultant said it is unlikely that the expansion could be done without the DPR property.

Most of the discussion concerned transportation issues. There was much concern about how the additional traffic (cars and buses) could be handled on the existing streets with the students increasing from 700 to 1000. APS will be discussing with VDOT a possible driveway to provide access to Old Dominion Drive.

At this time, I don't know what tree related issues there might be on this project. I asked when the tree inventory would be available and APS staff did not know.

Abingdon Elementary School

Included in the April 15 PFRC meeting information on the PFRC website <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/> is a letter (labeled "Abingdon Letter") from Steve Sockwell, PFRC Chairman, to the County Board. It is a progress report on the Abingdon project.

Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) – Steve Campbell

The WRAPS process now has a draft plan which will be presented at the Working Group meeting this Tuesday, 5/26, to be held at Wilson School (7-10PM). You can access the draft plan by clicking on "draft Western Rosslyn Area Plan".

The Long Range Planning Commission will be reviewing WRAPS at its meeting this Wednesday, 5/27, to be held in the County Board room (7-10PM).

The [draft Western Rosslyn Area Plan](#) is now available online.

Community Facilities Study – Nora Palmatier

Meeting this evening will report on the Siting Principles subcommittee. So far the group discussions have all stressed the importance of preserving open land and green space. Last time someone pointed out that anytime one neighborhood group “wins” by not having something built/changed in their neighborhood (such as the TJ Park not having a school built) another neighborhood “looses” by having changes made in theirs – that decisions should be made on a county wide basis rather than the nearby neighborhood having a greater say. Several folks also believe the neighborhood civic association is not representational of a community as seen by the meetings attendance, that more information should flow to everyone and not “Presidents” via internet and other technology. Lots of good discussion and I have no idea where it is going. Presentations on line at <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/documents/>

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier

Info tables at farmers markets are monthly at Westover and Courthouse. Individual volunteering is happening but no large group projects during the summer. TS Hugh Robinson reported random branch removals along Bluemont Junction Trail, but after checking with County staff, no one knows who did this act. Patrick Wegeng thought it was done on a random basis by someone “with a sharp lopper and no knowledge of pruning”. It would be good to know if this is often seen on County land and should UFC consider education/publicity on the unlawfulness of cutting public property?

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

Carolyn Smedo attended the roundtable and we’ll be talking about getting higher quality trees in future years. This year, only 100 trees will be planted, pre-applications have finished, and invitations to submit have been sent. More requests were made than can be met so some were denied already.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee – Phil Klingelhofer

On May 14, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting, with one item on the agenda:

Presentation by Victor Hoskins, Director of Economic Development – Victor Hoskins, Arlington’s new Director of Economic Development, gave a very stimulating presentation on his views and plans for growing the Arlington commercial sector, with benefits for employment and our tax base. He is a very engaging and dynamic speaker. His presentation, entitled “The Way Forward” is attached.

Also attached are the NCAC April 9 meeting minutes.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

NoVa Urban Forestry Roundtable was held Wednesday, May 27... topic was Obtaining Quality Trees. Arlington County was well represented with not only 5 TS, and Vincent but staff from TCF, schools and stormwater as well. Lots of good comments on how to ensure quality through better specifications and pre-inspections, as well as the complications of rejecting. A sub group is forming to work with Virginia Nursery Assoc. to set quality standards like Florida which “grades” plants in 4 categories, with the understanding the growers can charge more for the top. Presentations will be on the Trees Virginia website in a few days.