

Urban Forestry Commission
June 25, 2015
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Dean Amel
Nora Palmatier
Caroline Haynes
Phil Klingelhofer
Paul Campanella
Mikaila Milton
Ed Hilz
Karen Kumm Morris
Alex Sanders

State and County Staff

Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Rachel Jackson, DPR
Vincent Verweij, DPR
Steven Bernheisel, APS
Jim McGlone, VDOF

Guests

John Wingard, Tree Steward/Notable trees

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Notable Tree Program : Nominations and UFC Involvement – John Wingard, Tree Steward

John Wingard (Tree Steward and Notable Tree Volunteer Coordinator) described the nomination/designation process for Notable Trees and asked commission members to nominate any trees that they feel may be particularly significant. Mr. Wingard has been the lead person to measure trees that have been nominated for Notable Tree status. He has then reviewed nominations and presented his recommendations for the designation of Notable Trees to the Beautification Committee each January. The Beautification Committee has determined which trees qualify for Notable Tree Awards each year.

The Beautification Committee is currently without a Chair after the resignation of Lola Rogers, who has served in that position since 2004. The UFC has agreed to take on the former role of the Beautification Committee in designating Notable Trees. Mr. Wingard will present his measurements and recommendations for Notable Tree designation to the commission at their January, 2016 meeting. Notable Tree Awards will be presented to “winners” at the April, 2016 recessed meeting of the Arlington County Board.

Jamie Bartalon will work with DPR’s Marketing Unit to publicize the Notable Tree Program in mid-September, with an application deadline of November 15 for residents to submit nominations for the current year. Dean Amel thanked Mr. Wingard for his efforts measuring and evaluating trees that have been nominated. He urged UFC members to help by nominating trees

that they feel may qualify for Notable Tree Status. Commission members may send addresses and descriptions of potential Notable Trees to Mr. Wingard or to Jamie Bartalon.

Dean Amel noted that all Notable Trees are listed on the County website. Karen Kumm Morris asked whether the locations of Notable Trees have been mapped. Vincent Verweij noted that all Notable Trees and Champion Trees are included on an interactive map on the County website.

Final Recommendations for Arlington's 2016 Legislative Priorities

Commission members reviewed a draft letter prepared by Dean Amel on the UFC's recommendations for Arlington's 2016 legislative priorities, which were discussed at the May 28, 2016 UFC meeting. In addition to recommending that the County support Delegate Patrick Hope's efforts to strengthen Virginia's invasive plant regulations, and potential legislation by Delegate Alfonso Lopez requiring VDOT to cooperate more closely with localities, the draft letter also includes a recommendation suggested by Caroline Haynes to limit the requirement for criminal background checks for volunteers to individuals serving in volunteer positions that involve contact with children or access to monetary resources.

Ms. Haynes noted that the Park and Recreation Commission will also be including a recommendation to limit requirements for criminal background checks for volunteers in their recommendations for legislative priorities. The commission discussed whether the recommendation to limit background checks is a legislative issue, a Virginia Cooperative Extension issue, or a County issue. Ms. Haynes clarified that it's both a legislative issue and a County issue, but the intent of state regulations is geared to cover volunteers who work with children. Jim McGlone noted that background check requirements also present resource challenges to Virginia Cooperative Extension agents, who must currently collect and submit all information and forms for processing.

The commission approved Mr. Amel's draft letter of UFC recommendations to the County Board. Jamie Bartalon will submit the final letter on behalf of the commission.

iTree Eco Survey in Arlington to Quantify Urban Forest Values – Vincent Verweij, DPR

Vincent Verweij (DPR) described the data collection process and the information that results from an iTree Eco survey/analysis, which he intends to conduct in Arlington. iTree Eco is one of several programs in the iTree suite of softwares developed by the US Forest Service to quantify and characterize the value of ecosystem services provided by trees.

Performing an iTree survey in Arlington will require data collection at 201 survey points throughout the County. Data collected in each plot include: the amount of pervious vs. impervious surface; the land use category of the plot; canopy coverage within the plot; the species, structure and size of each tree; and, each tree's distance to nearby buildings.

In addition to estimating the number of trees in Arlington and providing information on forest health and species composition, iTree Eco will also calculate the environmental and economic value provided by Arlington's trees, including: the quantity of pollutants removed, carbon sequestered, oxygen produced, carbon dioxide stored, stormwater run-off mitigated, and energy saved. In response to a question by Karen Kumm Morris, Vincent Verweij verified that iTree Eco information on energy savings associated with trees can also be related to the reduction of urban heat island effects.

Mr. Verweij reported that he has mapped the location of the required 201 survey points in Arlington, but the data collection process will be very labor intensive and require the commitment of many trained and skilled volunteers. He noted that he will not likely have enough skilled volunteers to conduct the survey this year, but will begin to prepare for next year. Jim McGlone added that it took 9 foresters 15 months to complete an iTree survey in Fairfax County (while they were also performing their regular duties). Casey Trees took about 3 months to complete an iTree survey in Washington, D.C., with the help of a great number of skilled volunteers.

Mr. Verweij further explained iTree Eco sampling protocol, including options to record information on paper forms or use an on-line application to capture data while in the field.

Commission members and Mr. Verweij discussed the establishment of survey plots and whether randomly located plots will be able to provide statistically significant results for analyzing the benefits that trees provide in specific land use areas. Commission members were particularly interested in whether there would be an adequate number of plots in urban corridors to quantify the contributions of trees in commercial areas. Vincent Verweij noted that iTree Eco provides information on the overall value/contribution of all trees in Arlington, which could be used to support budget decisions, educate the public and highlight the benefits that trees provide. He also noted that it is possible to specify survey plot locations in order to ensure that reports run by various land use categories are statistically significant.

Caroline Haynes reported that the Park and Recreation Commission will be writing a "white paper" on the value of public land. She noted that an iTree Eco analysis would do a lot to support the value of parkland, and suggested that the UFC could do an analysis and report on the value of Arlington's urban forest. Jim McGlone noted that the city of Milwaukee used an iTree analysis to show that the air quality contributions of ash trees exceeded the cost of treating ash trees for emerald ash borers.

Caroline Haynes suggested that DPR staff should also work with DES staff when quantifying the stormwater mitigation benefits that trees provide. Dean Amel added that such an analysis may also help support the case for including trees in stormwater control efforts. He suggested that staff begin planning to recruit and train volunteers for conducting an iTree Eco study/analysis, investigate the possibility of establishing an internship, and begin discussions with other departments so that an analysis can be performed next year.

Tree Pits and Stormwater Management – Open Discussion

Dean Amel informed commission members that Karen Kumm Morris, Steve Campbell and he met on June 23, to discuss issues related to the design of tree pits that also serve a stormwater management function. The group will meet with DPR Urban Foresters Vincent Verweij and Rachel Jackson on July 21, to further discuss the issue and potential options. Future meetings to include DES Stormwater staff are anticipated.

Karen Kumm Morris noted that recent efforts to incorporate trees into stormwater management strategies are exciting. However, current design details that channel water into tree pits that are 12 inches to 18 inches below sidewalk level are problematic because they may pose hazards to pedestrians, tend to gather trash, and may result in anaerobic soil conditions that are inhospitable to tree roots, especially in areas with clay soils (like Arlington). Ms. Kumm Morris feels that it is important to brainstorm alternative designs with appropriate staff (including DES).

During discussions of current tree pit/stormwater collection designs, Jim McGlone noted that trash which is washed into tree pits during rain events may otherwise end up in streams. Dean Amel noted that lack of adequate space for pedestrian access on some sidewalks is also an issue, especially in commercial areas that may not have sufficiently wide rights-of-way. Jim McGlone asked how some of the current tree pits designed to collect stormwater differ from Filtera systems, which have been in use for several years. Karen Kumm Morris responded that Filtera systems are more like sand filters with shrubs installed, and are designed to cleanse stormwater before it enters the storm drain system, rather than allowing stormwater to infiltrate the groundwater table. Mikaila Milton asked whether tree pits designed to collect stormwater would contain soil that is amended with sand to permit infiltration. Dean Amel noted that, for development projects, such soil amendments would likely only be included if they were required in Site Plan conditions.

Karen Kumm Morris noted that an ideal design would combine the benefits of increased soil volume with stormwater storage in a manner that benefits both tree health and storage capacity. She referenced calculations done with James Urban showing that 1,000 cubic feet of amended soil provides 200 cubic feet of stormwater storage.

Jim McGlone postulated that reluctance by engineers to include trees in some stormwater management facilities (because of the prediction that the trees will need to be removed to replace clogged soil substrates) is probably based on past experience with abiotic sand filters. He feels that replacement of soil substrates will not be necessary in biotic systems that include tree roots and soil organisms that maintain soil porosity.

A more detailed discussion of possible options will take place at the July 21 meeting with DPR Urban Foresters and UFC members Dean Amel, Steve Campbell and Karen Kumm Morris.

Karen Kumm Morris also noted that the draft Rosslyn sector Plan Amendment and the Courthouse Square Plan both include examples of “sunken” tree pits to help mitigate stormwater run-off. She feels that language within both plans needs to be broader, so that sunken pits are not

considered to be the standard design. She has drafted a letter on this issue that she will forward to commission members for consideration in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 28, 2015 UFC meeting were approved with the inclusion of reports by Karen Kumm Morris (Planning Activities) and Phil Klingelhofer (NCAC Updates) that were omitted in previous draft minutes.

Staff Reports

- Rachel Jackson (DPR) reported that park renovation projects are in progress at Gunston, Woodstock and Virginia Highlands Parks.
- Rachel Jackson reported that a developer has requested an amendment to the Master Transportation Plan in order to extend a section of 18th Street North near North Quantico Street as a means to provide access to a buildable lot that was assembled from smaller parcels. If approved, the extension would result in the removal of 3 trees from the County right-of-way, which also serves as an entrance to the Custis Trail.

Caroline Haynes reported that the Park and Recreation Commission received a presentation on the proposal, which is scheduled to be heard by the County Board on July 18. The Park and Recreation Commission is opposed to the project and will be submitting their comments to the County Board.

A motion was approved by the Urban Forestry Commission to review the draft letter from the Park and Recreation Commission to the County Board, and jointly sign the letter if UFC members support the draft. Caroline Haynes will e-mail a copy of the draft letter to UFC members for their review and consideration.

- Vincent Verweij (DPR) reported that demolition has begun for the McKinley Elementary School renovation project.
- Mr. Verweij reported that APS has agreed to include a five-year invasive plant control component to the renovation plans for Abingdon School. Ed Hilz noted that APS still needs to work with the community to determine the location where Fairlington's commemorative trees will be planted. Mr. Hilz also requested that Steven Bernheisel (APS) inform his colleagues that APS consultants should share tree inventories with DPR's Urban Foresters. The tree inventory for Stratford School has not yet been shared.
- Approximately 20 people joined Mr. Verweij on a Champion Tree bike tour, which he led on June 21. The tour was very successful, with another one being planned for the fall.

- Parks and Natural Resource Division staff joined staff from DPR’s Park Design and Development Division to tour Benjamin Banneker Park, prior to scoping and planning park renovations. The field meeting was an opportunity for staff to identify and discuss existing features, natural resources and needs for improvements before preliminary design begins, so that potential impacts and alternatives can be considered at the beginning of the planning process.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes’ Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group report is attached.

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 informed UFC members that she spoke at the June 13, County Board meeting, advocating for increased soil volume requirements for trees during the Request to Advertise (RTA) agenda item for the Rosslyn Sector Plan Addendum. Ms. Kumm will not be available in mid-July and recommended that a UFC member should attend the July 18, County Board meeting to comment during public hearings for adoption of the Rosslyn Sector Plan Addendum and approval of the RTA for the Courthouse Square Sector Plan.

Ms. Kumm Morris also asked for a UFC volunteer to attend the July 13, SPRC meeting, where the following Site Plans will be heard: Clarendon West (Red Top Cab), 4000/4040 Fairfax Drive (Web Building), and the Phased Development Site plan for Pentagon Center. All projects are described in the attached Planning Activities report. Ms. Kumm Morris offered to brief any UFC members able to attend the July 13, SPRC meeting.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz’s Public Facilities Review Committee update on Stratford School and Steve Campbell’s update on Wilson School are attached.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – Alex Sanders’ E2C2 report is attached. Mr. Sanders also reported that E2C2 will likely include a recommendation for pursuing stronger invasive plant regulatory legislation on their list of legislative priorities.

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.

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

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

Virginia Department of Forestry – Jim McGlone provided the following VDOF updates:

- State Forest Health Specialist, Dr. Chris Asaro, is leaving VDOF for a position with the US Forest Service. His position will be vacant for the time being.
- State Forester, Bettina Ring, will speak at the Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable conference in November. This will be the first time that VDOF’s State Forester has attended a Northern Virginia Urban Forest Roundtable event.
- Materials are being developed to assist with managing power line rights-of-way for pollinators.
- VDOF sent 20 staff members to assist with wildfire control efforts in Alaska.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Steven Bernheisel reported that the planning processes for Wilson School and Stratford School are progressing. He will work with APS staff and consultants to share tree inventories with DPR Urban Foresters.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – No report.

New Business

Caroline Haynes suggested that the UFC consider planning a field trip in lieu of an August meeting. She noted that something similar to Tree Steward’s Lacey Woods Park “scavenger hunt” for trees may be an activity that commission members would enjoy.

Attachments to June 25, 2015 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group – Caroline Haynes

We heard from Jason Papacosma, Watershed Programs Manager, Department of Environmental Services, on the implementation plan for the new Storm Water Regulations (MS4 Permits) that are being phased in over a period of several years. Arlington has worked to stay ahead on planning for these changes, and adopted the dedicated storm water fee several years ago to help fund implementation of the new Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan. Each jurisdiction will be given pollution reduction targets and specific actions that must be taken to reduce pollutants going into the Bay. Arlington is working on long-term solutions to reduce pollutants (as opposed to some communities that are focusing first on the low hanging fruit and putting off some of the more daunting, long-term planning), and is currently on target to meet the first phase of the regulations.

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes

At the June 23 meeting we heard presentations on:

- WRAPS: PRC will be sending one more letter with a number of comments, including calling for adequate soil volume to support mature trees.
- Proposed amendment to the Master Transportation Plan to create a new partial street off of N. 18th St and N. Quantico St. to enable a triangle parcel of existing wooded land to become a buildable housing lot. The road would take down several mature trees, impinge on an existing section of the bike trail and would likely increase an already difficult stormwater issue. The creation of a building lot would remove a large swath of mature trees that currently provide a buffer from I-66. PRC will be writing a letter opposing the amendment to the MTP.

We discussed the proposed working group on the lighting of the new Williamsburg fields, the new South Arlington Schools Committee and the release of a PRC white paper on the benefits of Arlington's Parks. We also heard from Aurora Hills Civ. Assn. residents who are opposed to the proposed Nelly Custis NC project (the vote on this was delayed to the fall funding round to seek additional community input). In addition, we heard a wide range of member updates including on Long Bridge Park, Courthouse Square, Wilson School, Stratford School, PSMP, and Site Plans.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

Planning Initiatives

- Community Facilities Study – Continues in Facility Siting subcommittee. Next meeting is June 30. 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 – RTA approved by County Board on June 13. Plan will now proceed forward for public review, scheduled for July 18. **UFC needs to have a designated UFC rep. at the July 18 County Board Public Hearing.**

UFC commented on the Plan and the need for up to 1,000 CF per tree of amended soil. However, the County Board did not insert this guidance in the Plan. Perhaps too detailed for a master plan. Overall, this is a bold and exciting plan and the section dealing with expanding the tree canopy is welcomed. Plan calls for a 15% tree coverage goal and clearly explains the benefits of expanded tree canopy.

- Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) - Steve Campbell has been covering this study.
- Courthouse Square Sector Plan – Staff has published the draft plan and will be presented to the Planning Commission in July for a RTA, followed by the County Board on July 18. **UFC needs to have a designated UFC rep. at the July 18 County Board Public Hearing.**
- Lee Highway Corridor – This is now an official work program item. Next mtg. is July 29, 2015, retail forum presented by Streetsense. Visit the Lee Highway Alliance website for more info on the process. This coming fall a charrette will be held in October to identify a community vision for the corridor. Good opportunity 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 – County Board approved the RFP on June 13. Will now proceed forward with for a public hearing on July 18. 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.

SPRC Site Plan Reviews

SP. #438 Clarendon West (Red Top Cab) Rosemary Ciotti and Nancy Lacomini

Developer – Brian Scull with The Shooshan Company. Jon Kinney, George Dove – Architect, Trini Rodriguez- Landscape Arch.

Need UFC member on SPRC’s July 13, Monday, to comment on open space and street trees. Graphics appear to show street trees closely spaced as per the Clarendon Streetscape Guidelines. However, at a few intersections, the trees appear on the site plan to be setback significantly from the corner of the intersection. The tree line should start 30 feet back from the Point of Intersection unless there are utility conflicts. Potentially could achieve another tree per block.

Trees need to have continuous soil panel, and given the need to increase soil volumes, UFC should request up to approx. 1,000 cubic feet per tree be achieved.

If SWM is being proposed within the tree pit, UFC requests that the tree pits not be sunk below the sidewalk elevation. DES, CPHD and Natural Resources should work together to develop an alternative SWM for urban sidewalks. In addition to SWM green roofs, please consider providing edible gardens for residents use. Very popular and desired by many residents.

Need to designate an UFC representative to attend the July 13, SPRC for this item.

SP #46 4000 and 4040 Fairfax Drive (Web Building), Eric Gutshall

Developer – John Kusturiss, Penzance, CFO AV, Tad Lunger, attorney, Jason Ovalle with Hickok Cole Architects, Barbara Coulston with Parker Rodriguez.

330 units, 8,400 SF retail, in ex. Web Building 173,500 SF office, 11,700 SF retail.

Street tree plan follows RB streetscape guidelines, but the Plan should be revised to start the first tree on N. Randolph closer to N. Fairfax Drive, matching the tree layout shown for N. Quincy Street unless utilities are a constraint.

UFC should request up to approx. 1,000 cubic feet per tree be achieved. If SWM is being proposed within the tree pit, UFC requests that the tree pits not be sunk below the sidewalk elevation. DES, DHCP and Natural Resources should work together to develop an alternative SWM for urban sidewalks. In addition to SWM green roofs, please consider providing edible gardens for residents use. Very popular and desired by many residents.

PDSP Pentagon Centre, SP #297 - Need a UFC member for SPRC’s July 13 meeting. 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.

Need to designate a UFC representative for the SPRC, Monday, July 13.

Public Facilities Review Committee – Ed Hilz

Stratford Middle School – Ed Hilz

On June 11, the PFRC held its third 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, the Staff Report, and the Presentation for the June 11 meeting: <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/>.

The tree survey shown on slide 87 of the Presentation indicates:

- there are 446 trees on the site
- fewer than five trees were identified as high priority for preservation

10 percent of the trees on the site were identified as being in poor condition and many of these were dead

Wilson School - Steve Campbell

The second Public Facilities Review Committee meeting on the construction and planning for a new school at the Wilson School property took place on June 11th. You can access the slide presentation given that evening by going to:

www.aps.va/page/29273

Discussion continued related to various proposed building designs, siting considerations, and size of the playing fields. Analyses were presented for school-related transportation issues (parent and school bus pick-up/drop off, other modes of transport, school transportation's impact on the neighborhood, building access options under the different scenarios, and for anticipated achievable levels of sustainability.

The presentation reviewed how school program requirements, student circulation, interior spatial needs, and natural light needs eliminated all but one of the five suggested design options, and dictated school building placement as well (a sufficiently large footprint will allow for fewer floors (5)). This in turn will allow for better circulation and access within the building, as well as permit adequate natural light to enter. School says it plans no future building additions on this particular site.

At the end of the meeting the design group BIG and school staff confirmed to PFRC that their recommended design is the "fanning bars" concept, with building placement along Wilson. LRPC was almost unanimous in supporting these recommendations, as was BLPC at its June 10 meeting.

Thanks to the fanning bars design, the rooftop terraces will provide lots of open space (some available for public use). For example, there will be play amenities, the students will have gardens, the uppermost floor is planned to have solar panels.

Little mention of trees to date, but after the meeting I was told there will be limited opportunities on the rooftop terraces, as well as opportunities in the triangular plazas inside the sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard.

I stopped by the BLPC (Building Level Planning Committee) meeting tonight- they were presented a refined design of the one above. It will eventually be posted to the same webpage noted above. One new development tonight: it appears the school playing field will be pretty close to or at the same level as the County park, rather than it being approx. 5 feet higher. Seems it will potentially be a civic building of which to be proud!

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission – Alex Sanders

At its June meeting on the 22nd, E2C2 heard a presentation on an Affordable Housing Study and reviewed and approved several letters. The subjects addressed in these letters included: WRAPS, Ashlawn, a draft of our legislative priorities, Rosslyn, and TMDL.

On WRAPS, E2C2 acknowledged the improvements made to the draft plan while urging the Board to insist that Rosslyn Highlands Park be at least 22,000 sq feet, include sufficient soil for canopy trees and keep the new street to 2 lanes with no parking lane.

Our legislative priorities are still being discussed but we will include language asking the Board to support Delegate Hope's work on invasive species.

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

Discussion on June 24 was on process to be used in siting facilities. The committees first draft on how/when to involve public was generally approved, yet many feel the larger issue is on the unnecessary complications of the Capital Improvements Plan documents, knowing when a project will rise to the priority which is currently staff driven. Thanks to those who attended the Open House June 2, and urged preservation of open space, woodland, natural areas, and tree canopy – they made it into the minutes under “General Agreements”. All reports available at <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/documents/>

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier

TreeStewards held a Tree Scavenger Hunt on June 20 at Lacey Woods Park. The sheet of 38 tree species found in the park is available. Annual meeting and elections is July 14.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

TreeStewards are visiting those who requested assistance in tree selection. The deadline has been extended till July 17, and tentative review for approval is July 30 or Aug 14. Funding is estimated for 100 trees. Caroline Smedo Straub attended the last UF Roundtable on obtaining quality trees, was excited by the model contract wording presented and will be reviewing the TCF contract to strengthen it.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

Next roundtable (TBD late August/early September) will be held in a field near Haymarket and features examining roots exposed with air spades. Hands on as well as experts presenting. Nov. 5 is the conference on improving urban soils at Algonquin Regional Park – details being arranged now.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee – Phil Klingelhofer

On June 11, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its monthly meeting, with one item on the agenda:

Presentation of the Spring 2015 Funding Session

The projects under consideration, based on points allocation, include:

- Ashton Heights – street improvement (\$970k)
- Lyon Village – street improvement (\$828k)
- Aurora Highlands – Nelly Custis Park (\$732k)
- Arlington Ridge – street improvement (\$879k)
- Leeway – street improvement (\$261k)

The Spring 2015 Funding Session booklet can be found at the Commission page with details on the specific projects: <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation-advisory-committee/>.

The cost estimates will give you pause since many of them are very high. Multiple factors contribute to these substantial cost increases: 1) In April the County Board approved a new on-call construction contract after six years with the previous contract. 2) Several new components that must be included as part of our engineering plans in order to get them approved contribute to the increased costs, as well as the new state requirements for storm water management. 3) Lastly, in many cases, the complexity of the projects have increased as the simpler projects for many neighborhoods have already been completed.

This overall increase in project costs will have a significant impact on the number of neighborhood projects that can be funded in each round under the two-year \$12 million NC bond and further increase the wait time for projects.

The NCAC voted to 1) remove the Aurora Highlands Nelly Custis Park project from the group because further community outreach should be conducted and 2) recommend to the County Board approval of the four remaining projects.