



Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 9:00 am

Green Committee – Minutes

City Hall, Room 214

Meeting called to order by Anne Little, acting chair, at 9:00 am.

Green Committee Members present: Jason Coiner, Christien Conniff, Lisa Durham, Carolyn Helfrich, Anne Little, Carl Little, Adam Lynch, Jason Ogle, and Aaron Simmons.

- Introduction – Guests and new members:
- Approve January 14, 2020 Minutes:
  - Minutes were approved as submitted.
- Public Comments:
  - None
- Baseball Stadium Design Update:
  - A visit was made to check out the stadium site on Wednesday, February 5. There were some concerns about stormwater control measures in place with the forecast rainstorm due the next day. The storm was not as severe as expected so there was apparently no significant damage.
  - There will be two plantings at the stadium, April 4 and April 25. We are working on the tree planting plan and in some cases swapping out the types of trees in the plan. Tree locations will remain as planned. For the two plantings trees will be unloaded in one location in the parking lot where they will be bare rooted and carried to the planting spots.
  - The baseball team is planning to give away 1,000 trees at one of the last game of the season, probably on either September 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Solar in the parking lot (FYI): All of the lights in the parking lot will be solar powered, thus eliminating cabling to them, and the cost of electricity to run them.
- The Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) 2020 Urban Tree of the Year
  - Committee members noted that in this area they tend to get a lot of aphids, and are probably not a great street tree.
- Pumphouse Project Update:
  - Still in limbo due to lack of funding. We will look at writing a grant to cover the cost of landscaping. Carolyn will update the committee on the cost.
- Parks, Recreation and Events Update – Aaron Simmons:
  - Getting ready for Earth Day.
  - Court kids are scheduled to mulch Dixon Park in February .
  - Parks is collecting cigarette butts, which will be sent to a recycler.

- Tree Fredericksburg Update – Carl Little
  - Two plantings scheduled at the Baseball Park.
  - Other Spring planting will be focused on replacement tree planting along the streets.
  - The tree giveaway planned for March 28<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.
  - We will be doing a tree giveaway at Earth Day, April 18th. One-gallon trees will be given away. A tree check area is planned so people can check their trees until they head home.
  - We are planning more tree giveaways in the Fall. We already have one grant to help fund this giveaway.
- City Updates – Jason Ogle:
  - The city collected Christmas trees, which were chipped up and taken to the landfill.
  - A city representative talked with KFC regarding topping the elm trees along the Hanson St side of the business. Their landscaper did this pruning.
  - There have been other instances of residents pruning street trees.
  - We will do a letter to the editor about crepe murder
  - We will see about posting information on Facebook regarding pruning of street trees, what to do and what not to do. It was suggested that we possibly have a poster at Earth Day event to address this issue.
  - Leaf pickup is finishing up this week. The city may be getting a new truck that is designed for leaf pick up. This will facilitate the process.
- UMW Update – Holly Chichester (not present):
  - UMW Sustainability Earth Day upcoming, April 22nd.
  - Efforts to clone the Brompton Oak are ongoing to determine how to best do this. Bartlett Tree Experts is working on this.
- Tree Steward Update – Christien Conniff:
  - A Tree Steward class is ongoing with 21 participants.
  - A Tree Steward meeting is scheduled for February 12th.
  - Tree Stewards will again be tabling at the Farmers Market this year at Hurkamp Park.
  - Will be participating in scheduled plantings, tree giveaway, etc.
- Friends of the Rappahannock
  - FOR has found a very large American Elm that they are working to save. They will measure it for Heritage Tree Status. Bartlett Tree Experts volunteered to treat for Dutch Elm Disease if desired.
  - A new large building is being planned on the corner of William St and Sophia St, to replace an existing building once the Chatham Bridge project is complete. It will have a significant footprint on the bank of the river. FOR wants to work closely with the developer to protect the river at this site. The developer is also talking about supporting a river walk across this property, and possibly working with Face the River.

- Member Comments:
  - Frank Widic – Trestle Park is the green space between the train station and Frederick St. Currently the neighborhood is trying to get this space designated as a park. The city is also looking at installing a restroom facility at the train station. The city is looking at part of the park space for installation of this restroom. Planning Commission is going to be addressing these upcoming proposed changes.
  - Frank Widic – Reminded us of a recent Washington Post article emphasizing the importance of maintaining large existing trees.
  - Frank Widic – If anyone sees improper planting ongoing in the city, bring it to the city’s attention so it can be corrected.
  - Anne Little – half of the newly planted city trees (over the last 10 years) were pruned this winter. The other half will be pruned next fiscal year.
  - Anne Little – Trees Virginia and the Department of Forestry will be convening a state canopy legislation effort this summer to work with the builders and farmers to come up with comprehensive canopy legislation to introduce at the next general assembly in 2021.
- Upcoming Events:
  - January 7 through March 3 – Tree Steward Certification Classes (ongoing)
  - April 4 & 25 – Tree planting @ Fred Nats baseball park
  - April 8 – Garden Club Arbor Day ceremony at Kenmore at 10:00 am
  - April 18 – City of Fredericksburg Earth Day – 11 am-4 pm + 1000 Trees Giveaway at Old Mill Park
  - April 22 – UMW Sustainability Earth Day Festival, Ball Circle 3-6 pm
- Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 9:00 am
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.