



Thursday, September 10, 2020, 9:00 am

Green Committee – Minutes

Online *GoTo-Meeting*

Reading of electronic *GoTo-Meeting* city compliance statement.

Meeting called to order by Holly Chichester, Chair, at 9:03 am.

Green Committee Members Present: Diane Beyer, Holly Chichester, Christien Conniff, Jason Coiner, Robert Courtnage, David Dorsey, Lisa Durham, John Eastman, Steve Gaske, Carolyn Helfrich, Adam Lynch, Anne Little, Carl Little, Erik Nelson, and Jason Ogle.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members: None
- **Approve July 14, 2020 Minutes:**
 - Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Public Comments:**
 - None
- **Baseball Stadium Design Update** – Anne Little:
 - *Tree Fredericksburg* is meeting today with baseball representation on a water source for watering trees and shrubs after planting.
 - Planting of the trees and shrubs at the baseball stadium will be accomplished by a contractor. Due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions it is not possible to do the planting with volunteers.
 - The selection of tree and shrub species has been modified to include more natives and other substitutes, which will be more compatible for this site. The caliper size of the trees has also been reduced from 3.0 to 3.5 inches to mostly 2.0 inches due to better survivability and handling of planting smaller trees.
 - The plant install is planned to occur over about a three-week period during October/November.
 - Trees are being sourced from three vendors, and shrubs will be acquired from four vendors.
 - Coordination with City Planning is ongoing regarding the changes in planting.
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons:
 - Nothing presented
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Carl Little:
 - We still have a tree giveaway scheduled this Fall, Nov 7th and 14th. We will be giving away 3,000 trees. We hope to conduct the giveaway at James Monroe High School like we did last Fall.

- This summer presented a real challenge for keeping trees watered. The heat and lack of rain that extended through July took a significant toll on our new trees, as well as other trees planted during the past couple of years. A number have already been confirmed dead and removed. A number of others are still in question. We hope some will revive in the Spring, but we will have to wait and see.
- To keep up with the watering during July we were up to five part-time people watering trees, covering up to 12 hours a day, 7 days per week at some points. We are now back down to one person, part time. This personnel turmoil was a bit of a challenge.
- We will be replacing a few trees that died in Idlewild that the HOA had us plant, as well as a few others around town that need to be replaced now.
- **City Updates** – Diane Beyer:
 - Diane Beyer gave a presentation, which was a review of the current tree program and budget. See attached.
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
 - Today is move-in day at UMW for the students. It will be staggered through the weekend for social distancing protocol adherence.
 - The pollinator garden planted behind the Anderson Center took a maintenance hit this summer. The garden was initially planned for students to maintain, but this was not possible when all of the students went home due to Covid-19. The loss of several Grounds crew members (retirement or medical) and the state hiring freeze has further crippled maintenance efforts outside of primary grounds duties. The students are ready to dive in, though!
 - UMW lost a big Tulip Poplar on campus due to a lightning strike, then a windstorm. It had to be removed. A number of other large trees have also been lost. We hope to replace many of these.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Christien Conniff:
 - Due to Covid-19, it was a bit difficult to complete this year’s Tree Steward training course.
 - Four people suspended training due to their need for strict Covid-19 distancing.
 - Of the other students all but two have completed training, and Tree Steward badges have been issued.
 - The final pruning training was accomplished for several of the new stewards by taking them out one or two at a time to train them by pruning trees along the streets in several of the neighborhoods.
 - We are planning some group pruning sessions through Winter to provide additional experience for the new Tree Stewards.
 - The next Tree Steward meeting will be on October 14th, and probably be conducted on Zoom.

- **Member Comments:**

- There have been questions about how the current situation (pandemic, FY21 budgeting, etc.) has affected existing City of Fredericksburg Fall 2020 tree planting plans, as well as tree pruning efforts. Diane Beyer's presentation addressed these questions.
- Information and opportunities from VDOF/Matthew Coleman
 - VDOF cost share opportunity for removal of ash trees on public land. The deadline is September 18th. Details are available – let Holly Chichester know if you are interested.
 - VDOF on-line seedling store opens on October 1st. The website is www.BuyVaTrees.com.
 - Interviews will be conducted soon for Tom Snoddy's prior Area Forester position. Apply here: <http://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com/postings/195248>
- Anne Little – Installation of trees at Riverfront Park is being delayed. Probably planting will start in Fall 2021.
- Anne Little – UMW/*Community Outreach and Resources* (COAR) organization volunteered to help with tree related projects in the City. *Tree Fredericksburg* is organizing a mulching project at Maury Playground on Saturday, September 26th. *Friends of the Rappahannock* (FOR) is assisting with mulch distro with a frontend loader.
- Adam Lynch – Shout out to CoF Public Works. Public Works is restricting new stormwater draining into streets. FOR is now working with effected residents to establish onsite stormwater management.
- Diane Beyer – Public Works is planning stormwater education to better inform residents on mitigation of stormwater runoff.
- Anne Little – At Memorial Park, at end of park toward Cornell St., a resident removed two large trees on their property. They now are experiencing standing water in that area. Their trees used to take up that water. Parks asked if some trees could be planted near that point in the park to take up water. Diane Beyer – Public Works was also contacted regarding this situation. They referred the resident to FOR for potential assistance with onsite stormwater mitigation. FOR had not yet been contacted by the resident.
- Carl Little – At the Sunken Road planting project (1600 block) to restore an area excavated for a new sewer line, several trees near the UMW fence line are being overgrown by some of the natural vegetation along the fence. *Tree Fredericksburg* is planning to move some of the new trees further out away from the fence to avoid the overgrowth. The natural vegetation will be left as a visual barrier along the fence. We are also looking at replacing some dead trees with one-gallon trees from the tree giveaway this fall.
- Anne Little – *Tree Fredericksburg* has been reinstalling Arborgards on some street trees due to weed whacker damage. We have also remulched some trees on Franklin St. and other areas. We hope to develop a handout to give to residents which explains the need for the Arborgards to protect the young trees.

- Anne Little – Cossey Park is in need of maintenance to remove vines overgrowing shrubs, etc. David Dorsey is going to check with Parks to see if Guy Mussey can get some of his people to catch up on the maintenance.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Tree Giveaway Event – Fall 2020. Tentatively planned to be held at James Monroe High School if possible since this site worked very well for the recent giveaway event. 3,000 trees are scheduled to be given away at the fall event. An alternative site for this event is City Shop. We also plan to have about 500 moisture meters to sell to people to check their own trees and plantings. Proper moisture levels are critical to the survival of trees.
 - FOR Riverfest. Largest fundraiser. Drive through model is being used for this event. FOR is offering takeout crabs and online entertainment. Tickets available from FOR.
- **Next Meeting** –Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 9 am, tentatively via *GoTo-Meeting*
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.