



Tuesday, December 8, 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 9:04 am.

Green Committee Members Present: Holly Chichester, Jason Coiner, David Dorsey, Lisa Durham, Carolyn Helfrich, Gary Johnson, Anne Little, Carl Little, Adam Lynch, Erik Nelson, Jason Ogle, Michael Roberson, Aaron Simmons, and Frank Widic.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members: None
- **Approve November 10, 2020 Minutes:**
  - Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Public Comments:**
  - None voiced, though one unknown member of the public was in attendance.
- **Baseball Stadium Installation Update** – Anne Little:
  - Planting for fall is finished. To date we have installed 217 trees. Another 33 trees will be planted in spring 2021 to complete the tree planting. These 33 trees are species best planted in spring. Planting of shrubs has been delayed to next fall due to financial considerations. There is also interest in adding an additional layer of plantings to further enhance the landscape. The stadium is still surrounded by a lot of natural canopy. The new plantings should restore the majority of canopy removed for the stadium.
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons:
  - The Parks maintenance crews have been involved heavily with Christmas parade preparations.
  - Annual grasses planted at Hurkamp Park during this year will be removed soon.
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Carl & Anne Little:
  - A Love Scrub was recently conducted at Hurkamp Park. It involved planting a lot of bulb, and cabbages in the planting beds. Chip Taylor has been instrumental in organizing the love scrub efforts in the parks.
  - Trees were left over from the tree giveaway and we have been planting them in various places around town to replace trees that have died. This includes locations such as Snowden Park, Old Mill Park, Sunken Road project, and the Blue-Gray Parkway Dixon St exchange. In these locations it is feasible to use some of these young trees as replacements. It is also very economical.

- A beaver has been back in Old Mill Park recently and has taken out three young trees near the playground. At least two of the trees were chewed off at a height of about five feet above the ground. We realized that this had to have occurred during the recent river flooding when the water was at a high level in the park. The beaver was able to swim up to these trees and cut them off at this elevated level.
- During the recent river flooding a lot of the trees we had planted on the lower tier of Old Mill Park were washed away. Just trying to replant them does not seem to be a reasonable approach.
- The downtown flowerpots were replanted with Christmas trees on November 13th. These trees were also decorated for the holiday season. We now have 29 flowerpots on the street corners and 7 in the Market Square alley. Tree Stewards and other volunteers helped with this project.
- We have been identifying tree locations for planting in the spring. We are also trying to identify areas for possible group planting in the future.
- **City Updates** –Jason Ogle for Diane Beyer):
  - The Tree Crew finished re-mulching the right-of-way on the canal side of Mary Washington Blvd.
  - The Tree Crew has also been continuing to limb-up and clean up trees along the streets.
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
  - Students have departed campus but are still involved online at this time in completing testing. There were no real issues during the semester.
  - The UMW grounds crew is in the process of cleaning up leaves, annuals, etc. around the campus.
  - Students will return in late January.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Christien Conniff:
  - The stewards hope to do some pruning during the winter. There will be a concentration of effort in the parks and schools.
  - DPW just put out the RFP for the winter pruning along the streets. Again, this year half of the city will be pruned.
  - We recently did significant pruning of the trees in the area known as Trestle Park next to the handicap parking lot at the train station.
  - Face the River efforts for creating a path along the river have been largely picked up by the City to get this accomplished. City Planning has allocated trees to be planted along this new pathway.
  - We hope to have a number of mulching projects during the winter. These will be focused on various parks, and similar areas. Part of this effort will be to enlarge the mulch circles in order to provide a better environment for tree roots, including keeping equipment off of the roots.

- **Member Comments/Questions:**

- Hanson Avenue Neighborhood inquiries – Crape myrtle ('Tuscarora' dark pink) future replacement plans; options/alternate species and design. Young crapes are having difficulty growing in this area now. We have lost a number of young crapes down along the river. We suspect that this is due to colder temperatures along the river during the winter. In order to protect the surviving crapes in the center median of Hanson Avenue, it might help to start interspersing larger trees in the median in order to provide some shelter for the crapes. Another factor regarding crapes is the amount of pruning required to properly maintain them. This puts a heavy load on the City tree crew. Another aspect of installing large trees in the center median would be traffic calming, which would be beneficial for that street. 'Natchez' crapes might be a hardier variety of crape to be used in this area. Another possible choice in the large median would be certain variety of sugar maple ('Legacy') which is more tolerant of the temperatures. There used to be a number of sugar maples in this area. Putting some of these in would bring back the rich fall colors to this neighborhood. All just in early discussion.
- Bump-outs (Anne Little). Discussion of this topic was postponed to a future meeting.
- Frank Widic – Would not like to see us give up on trees in the lower tier of Old Mill Park by the river. Adam Lynch suggested that it might be good to leave a lot of the log debris to act as protection for the bank. Discussions continued regarding possibilities for restoring and protecting this area of the park. We need to develop a recommended course of action for this. David Dorsey is going to bring this up at the next Recreation Commission meeting.
- David Dorsey – Suggested that it is time to look at the artificial mulch we are using in the downtown tree wells to determine what is working best. This would allow for possible adjustments to future applications to attain the best results. We can assess what type of maintenance, etc. will be needed in the future. Further discussion ensued.

- **Upcoming Events:**

- Outdoor Learning Lab at the River's Edge: Week 8 - December 9
- Outdoor Learning Lab at the River's Edge: Week 9 - December 16  
Visit <https://riverfriends.org/events/> for details
- **Next Meeting** –Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 9 am, unless otherwise determined. We will still be in the *GoTo-Meeting* format.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.