



Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 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 9:07 am.

Green Committee Members Present: Holly Chichester, Christien Conniff, Diane Beyer, Robert Courtnage, David Dorsey, Steve Gaske, Carolyn Helfrich, Anne Little, Adam Lynch, and Michael Roberson.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members: None
- **Approve December 8, 2020 Minutes:**
 - Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Public Comments:**
 - None voiced, though two unknown members of the public were in attendance.
- **Baseball Stadium Landscape Installation Update** – Anne Little:
 - There has been no change since the last meeting.
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Anne Little:
 - A Spring tree giveaway tentatively will be held March 27. There are 2,000 trees to give away to City residents. The trees were funded by \$17,000 in grants from Friends of the Rappahannock, We Plant Trees, Bartlett Tree Experts and the U.S. Forest Department.
 - Anne Little indicated that the General Assembly is considering legislation that would give all Virginia local jurisdictions the authority to require up to 20% tree canopy coverage for any new construction.
 - Diane Beyer indicated that the “Specimen Tree” requirement requires that any developer removing a tree with a diameter greater than 30 inches, must replace it by planting new trees somewhere else with total diameters of 30 inches. Anne Little indicated that the new stadium required the replacement of 576 inches of trees and that they used a greater number of smaller caliper trees.
 - Anne Little indicated that beavers have come into Old Mill Park. In response tree stewards recently installed “beaver guards” on 150 trees in the park. Diane Beyer indicated that the City would look into relocating the beavers.
- **City Updates** –Diane Beyer:
 - Diane Beyer indicated that the current Master Tree Plan is out of date and that the City needs a new plan. She indicated that they were beginning a process to select a contractor to

develop and get community input on an Urban Forest plan that would replace the Master Tree Plan.

- David Dorsey suggested getting a municipal landscape design expert involved in the process of developing a new plan.
- Diane indicated that a meeting between City employees and Hanson Avenue neighborhood residents resulted in an agreement to manage and replace the Hanson Avenue crape myrtle trees until the new Master Plan is developed, but that there is no guarantee as to what would happen to the crape myrtle trees under a new Master Plan.
- Adam Lynch asked whether the neighborhood association residents could undertake some of the maintenance of the crape myrtle trees. Diane indicated that there would be a meeting with Canal Quarter residents to explain the City's plan to replace crape myrtle trees by transplanting sprouted seeds from existing trees and to train residents on maintenance of the trees.
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
 - No major changes are occurring. Winter leaf pickup and composting is proceeding as usual.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Christien Conniff:
 - Anne Little indicated that 12 students are signed up for the next Tree Steward class, which is scheduled to start January 19 and end March 23.
- **Member Comments/Questions:**
 - A discussion was had concerning the need to better advertise the availability of leaf-litter compost at the City's Eskimo Hill Dump. Diane Beyer indicated that the City has some brochures on this topic that could be used in an advertising effort.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - January 19: Adam Lynch indicated that a group of non-governmental environmental advocacy groups has asked Gustavo Angeles, an Environmental Justice specialist, to give a talk on Environmental Racism at their next monthly call. They are opening this presentation to the general public.
- **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 9 am, unless otherwise determined. We will still be in the *GoTo-Meeting* format.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.