



Tuesday, March 9, 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 9:06 am.

**Green Committee Members Present:** Diane Beyer, Holly Chichester, Christien Conniff, David Dorsey, Lisa Durham, Steve Gaske, Carolyn Helfrich, Anne Little, Carl Little, Adam Lynch, Michael Roberson, Manij Upadhyay, and Frank Widic.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members:
  - George Solley – Clean & Green Commission representative
- **Approve February 09, 2021 Minutes:**
  - Minutes were approved as written.
- **Public Comments:**
  - None
- **Baseball Stadium Installation Update** – Anne Little:
  - Tree Fredericksburg will be planting an additional 32 trees in March
  - Tree Fredericksburg is coordinating with the FredNats office to work out watering for the trees.
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons:
  - University students, COAR (UMW Community Outreach), will be doing a mulching project at Cossey Pond. A coordinator from COAR, Shelby – Intern on C&G, will be working with Anne Little on this project to learn how to coordinate events of this sort.
  - Chip Taylor has done Love Scrubs in the parks. He is going to be working with Parks to set up a formal process for getting these events organized.
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Carl & Anne Little:
  - The next Tree Giveaway will be held on March 27th. We are way ahead on coordinating the event. All trees and shrubs are already reserved. We are building on past experience to improve the giveaway event process.
  - We are currently considering future giveaway events at which we provide one-gallon trees and shrubs for about a \$5 donation each. This will help in the process of ordering trees and

funding the process. The hope is that we can export this concept across the state to other organizations for them to host their own giveaway events.

- Tree Fredericksburg and Friends of the Rappahannock are working with the Huntington Hills neighborhood to plant 36 pines as a buffer between the neighborhood and Oak Hill Cemetery.
- **Department of Forestry Update** – Manij Upadhyay, Mattaponi – Area Forester:
  - A VDOF report, attached, containing information and announcements was provided by Manij Upadhyay and discussed. The following topics were included:
    - 4:00 pm Burn Law, Emerald Ash Borer Cost-Share Program, VDOF seedlings available, Urban Wood Project website, Riparian Buffer Tax Credit 2020
  - The 2021 Forest Health Review can be accessed with the following link. - [http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/fhr/FHR-2021-01\\_pub.pdf](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/fhr/FHR-2021-01_pub.pdf).
- **City Updates** – Diane Beyer:
  - No additional comments
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
  - Grounds department is working with the COAR community outreach efforts. Raised planting beds are being built for the EcoClub vegetable garden at the UMW Apartments and campus waterway and invasive vine removal cleanup efforts are included.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Christien Conniff:
  - The current Tree Steward classes are still in progress
  - The Tree Stewards will have a regular meeting March 10<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.
  - Tree Stewards are working with all Tree Fredericksburg projects around the city.
- **Member-Guest Presentation/Discussion:**
  - George Solley, Clean & Green Commission – 2020 C&G Commission priorities matrix and 2021 C&G Commission priorities discussion:
    - The Clean & Green Commission is in the process of updating commission priorities. The updated list has not been submitted to Council, yet.
    - The first step of the update is to review 2020 priorities and determine the status of each priority. That was the objective of meeting with the Green Committee today.
    - Green Committee 2020 priorities were:
      - Work with Tree Fredericksburg and City staff through the Green Committee to continue to strategically plant trees in the city.
        - The committee decided this is an ongoing item and should remain on the list.

- Support introduced state legislation that allows local jurisdictions such as Fredericksburg to require a 20% tree canopy in commercial and residential development projects.
  - The committee decided this is an ongoing item and should remain on the list.
  - State legislators have put this item in for a study.
  - Several municipalities in Virginia already have some power in this area. The city can look into the possibilities of having this power extended to Fredericksburg.
- The committee agreed to possibly adding third item – to get an updated tree canopy study or some version of that – to support/work with the City Arborist/Public Works on this and the Urban Forestry Master Plan, which is in development.
  - The Urban Forestry Master Plan will probably be a three to five year plan.
  - The City is going to be updating the comprehensive tree coverage plan. The goal is to interrelate the Urban Forestry Master Plan with the comprehensive plan.
  - There is a possibility of getting a grant from the state to do a canopy study in the fall of 2021. Will need to work with City admins for this.
  - Adam Lynch advised that there is a state system that can provide 1-meter land use data. He has access to this and will get us information from this system on canopy coverage and impervious surface coverage in the city. He will provide this information at the next meeting.
  - Anne Little and Diane Beyer will work with Holly Chichester to come up with options on this third priority item.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Tree Fredericksburg Tree Giveaway, March 27th, FredNats Stadium parking lot. Additional volunteers are welcome.
- **Next Meeting** –Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 9:00 am, unless otherwise determined, we will still be in the *GoTo-Meeting* format.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.