

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes—DRAFT

Call to order: 3:30PM, December 13, 2017

Council Members (* if in attendance):

*Jeff Seltzer, DOEE	*Perry Wheelock, NPS	*Nathan McElroy, Pepco
*Earl Eutsler, DDOT	Robin Snyder, GSA	Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.
*Brent Sisco, DPR	Maureen Holman, DC Water	Irv Sheffey, comm. rep.
Zach Dobelbower, DGS	*Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	*Delores Bushong, comm. rep.

Invited presenters: *Sally Parker, DCPS

Others present:

*Meggan Davis, DGS	*Aaron Waters, DOEE	*Steve Saari, DOEE
*Maureen Alonzo, GSA	*Damien Ossi, DOEE	*Luke Cole, DOEE

Quorum: yes

Approval of December 13, 2017 minutes

Resolution: approval of UFAC Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2017. Upon a motion moved by Luke Cole, and seconded by Jeff Seltzer, but unanimous vote of all members present, the Committee approved the UFAC Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2017.

Status of the 2017–2018 tree planting plans

Earl Eutsler from DDOT/UFD reported on the status of tree planting. As of 12/13/2017, 3,685 trees had been planted, and Earl provided a breakdown by Ward:

1: 301	5: 464
2: 227	6: 439
3: 585	7: 642
4: 552	8: 475

Plan is to crest 9,000 trees by end of April 2018. Wards 1 and 2 are limited in tree space, but plan to maintain tree #s. Bulk of planting remains right-of-way and street tree spaces. But DDOT/UFD has expanded into nontraditional ROWs, like highway cloverleaves, along highways, and other creative spaces. UFD's 2017–2018 focus now includes small triangle parks and a handful of schools and other parks. Tree boxes in Wards 1,2,4 are nearly all planted out, and expect full planting in all wards within the 2 years. There is some potential to increase tree boxes, but that doesn't result in a major pickup of trees, given how labor intensive it is.

The question was raised about whether we should we be looking into *expanding* soil volumes to allow for increased canopy, esp in locations with fewer trees? Earl replied that there is some opportunity for this. Retrofits are difficult to implement, but the Green Area requirements for new development are helping with this. UFD is in the process of excavating vacant tree boxes and refilling them with new, amended topsoil.

There is a streetscape improvement project plan for RI Ave that will extirpate trees, but the entire corridor will be resoiled and repositioned, which will accommodate more structural services. This project has been delayed a few times, but the plan is moving forward slowly.

DOEE grantees Casey Trees and Washington Parks & People are on track to meet the Schoolyard/Parkland Grant requirements.

Perry Wheelock (NPS): 262 RCP tree planting for FY18, many of which were around the National Mall. 548 planted on the Mall. 150 Red Maples from Canada; 327 new trees. Effort underway to do a small commemorative tree planting over a NCP-E. Total: 810.

Maureen Alonzo (GSA): FY18: Nebraska Ave NW: 67 trees. Various downtown and SW: 30. Downtown SW and Independence Ave: 27 trees. St. E's: 103 in Spring 2018.

Nathan McElroy (Pepco): Pepco Alabama Substation: FY18 50 trees, Benning: ~150 trees. 40-50 public space trees on WV Ave. Casey Right Tree Right Place: 20-30 trees, but starting a mailing insert in January 2018 (will hit 75,000 people in DC).

Suggestion for Spring UFAC meeting: how to focus on religious institutions

Trees and stormwater fees: could religious institutions and cemetaries could plant trees or add stormwater catchments to lower their water bills? Tree component offset is minor, whereas the larger retention practices will yield greater savings. DOEE is working to help these institutions learn about our existing SW practices. RiverSmart Communities is aimed at churches and other institutions to a) teach them about practices that will benefit them, and b) get the word out about other DC tree and SW related programs.

USFS/DDOT Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis – Earl Eutsler, DDOT/UFD

Kickoff last week with DOEE, Casey Trees, NPS and a few other partners. Urban Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) has been happening nationwide at forested plots, but until recently, it excluded trees in non-typical forested areas, like urban spaces. Participation in the FIA offers D.C. species composition, age, distribution of tree sizes. Kicking off with the USFS to collect information on ~200 plots across the city in evenly spaced but randomly chosen on 1/6 acre plots.

National context: similar information coming from other inventories in D.C. But for FIA to transition to include more than what it has historically included is a shift by the USFS to show that all trees have value. D.C. will be captured and included with nationwide consideration.

How useful is the ground cover analysis? DC Fisheries and Wildlife could benefit from detailed ground cover data. But, data are collected, but the plots themselves aren't revealed. They are put into a statistical collective to create an overall assessment.

USFS, after the initial full assessment, will come back yearly an assess 1/7 of the plots each year.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees

Building off of the DOEE's solar training, Casey Trees convened local arboriculture groups to discuss opportunities for tree-related workforce training. Identified a need for entry-level tree care for the firms that were present (Bartlett, Davey, etc. including many landscaping firms). Need for ~1000 new entry-level jobs in the next few years. How to make the next leap to be able to provide funding for new staff? Casey is working with industry partners to figure this out. Hoping this will take prominence with District agencies,

Fed partners, and local industry. This program will be "Sector-led." "Service providers" like government agencies will support where/as needed. Good opportunity to lead DCHS students, GZEP, and other government-led groups into this workforce program.

NEW TOPICS for consideration in upcoming UFAC meetings

- NPS has undertaken a small parks strategy, focusing on small, non-"cultural landscape" parks, including small triangle parks. Assessing all of these small parks to assess their significance, which will lead to the opportunity for vegetation plans. Lots of inventorying going on now.
- Cultural landscapes, including views and vistas. Need to look at the full viewscape when looking down an avenue. Many historic vistas that need to be considered as a part of the landscape design. The goal is a net gain, but need to preserve features.
- Emerald Ash Borer on Roosevelt Is.: significant ash removal there. NPS is doing an EA/Cultural Landscape Report for future treatment on Roosevelt Is. While there are lots of locations where trees are being removed, could we consider replacement planting in partnership with DOEE/NPS. We should build a collective strategy.
- DCPS: reviewed conceptual designs for Coolidge HS (2nd to last to be modernized). Good opportunity to combine tree planting efforts. Good opportunity to have landscape architects design full forest conditions, see what the school would be willing to pay for, then partners could offer to cover the remainder.
- Vacant to Vibrant, a mayoral priority, 40-50 properties will become conservation easements. Kickoff on 12/15/17. Would like to jump on that. Casey Trees is the lead.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm