

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes—DRAFT

MEETING CHAIR: Jim Woodworth email: james.woodworth@dc.gov phone: 202.535.2244

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MEETING TITLE: UFAC Fall Meeting

Call to order: 2:00PM, October 16, 2019

Council Members (* if in attendance):

Jeff Seltzer, DOEE	*Perry Wheelock, NPS (phone)	*Nathan McElroy, Pepco
*Earl Eutsler, DDOT	Robin Snyder, GSA	Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.
Brent Sisco, DPR	Maureen Holman, DC Water	*Delores Bushong, comm. rep.
DGS - vacant	*Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	*Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.

Invited guests (present or on phone):

Sally Parker, DCPS	Kasey Yturalde, DDOT	Robert Corletta, DDOT
Chris Shaheen, OP	*Stephen Gyor, OP	Steve Saari, DOEE
Maureen Alonso, GSA	Russell Clark, GSA	Deborah Shapley, RMA
Sally Claggett, USFS	*Julie Mawhorter, USFS (phone)	*Phillip Rodbell, USFS (phone)
*Matt English, DOEE	*Melissa Deas, DOEE	*Matt Weber DOEE

Quorum: No

Discussion of annual Tree Planting reporting requirements and timelines.

- Matt English (DOEE) MS4 requirements - November timeframe for collecting inputs from partners and compiling annual MS4 report and inputs into C.A.S.T. 'reporting year' is July 1 – June 30.
- Jim Woodworth (DOEE) following up with all stakeholders for quarterly reporting planting data in order to compile for MS4/CAST as well as FY reporting for DC Council and others.

Presentation and Discussion PEPCO SAFI/SADI update (Nathan McElroy)

- Exelon is largest distribution power company in country
- Pepco manages 60-70,000 miles of utility wires on streets in DC
- 5% of power outages caused by trees in Washington DC
- Ten years ago thousands of trees w/ thru wires; now reduced to 100's of trees
- Direct contact results in arcing and burning
- How to resolve these conflicts?
 - Thru attrition of large trees (Derecho took out ~300 trees)
 - Right Tree Right Place program, 10% of 8,000 trees/year for past 10 years
 - Pre-planning of utility work w/Davey Trees/Davey Resource Group
 - "off cycle" tree risk management and conflict tree tracking

- Various engineering/equipment approaches have been employed to reduce arcing and burning where direct contact w/tree and thru wires.
- Use of tree growth regulators such as Cambistat in partnership w/UFD
- 100% post-work inspection and by 4th party internal auditor
- Vines factored into 10-12% of outages caused; this has been reduced to 4%
- Numerous examples shared of Outage Investigation reports

Presentation and Discussion of Ward 8 outreach initiatives (Brenda Richardson)

- Conflict tree tracking East of the River
- Issue: Trees on private property, seniors and affordability of tree care/removals
- Ward 7 & 8 vulnerable populations now looking at trees as something beautiful, philosophy changing
- Stoddert Terrace community meeting and community tree planting w/partnership with Washington Parks and People, DDOT-UFD (Duff McCully), Americorps*NCCC.
- Highland Dwellings
 - DDOT planting in public housing
 - Site tour of 10 sites
 - Plans to plant in fall 2019
- Friends of Oxon Run
 - Survey on trees and Oxon Run park
 - Stakeholder group
 - Newsletter
 - Issues:
 - SE tennis center
 - Parking lot v dog park v trees
 - 'Old folk' v 'new folk' listening sessions
 - Cars v trails, bollards, emergency vehicle access
 - Enforce a no-car zone
 - (Met Branch trail has mile markers, facilitating 911 dispatch)

Update and Discussion of Extreme Heat update/activities (Melissa Deas)

- Surface temp. map ranges from 70 – 110 degrees (RCP v. downtown DC)
- NOAA transects
 - Create inverse map of tree canopy
- Comprehensive heat strategy is 1-3 year plan
- Interventions fall into two buckets:
 - Bio-physical interventions (cool pavements, smart surfaces, greening)
 - Working with Portland-based research team Vivak Shandas, CAPA strategies
 - 3 blocks selected modeled interventions (results now completed)
 - Social interventions
 - Ventilation strategies, cooling centers
 - Communication/alert esp to vulnerable populations, seniors
- Heat Sensitivity Mapping w/social data and vulnerability indices
 - Income/age/ access to air conditioning
- EPA – DC collaboration on UHI analysis
- Diversity of building heights is an interesting factor

General discussion:

- (DB) How do we replace canopy when trees w/ overhead wires are removed?
 - Rhode Island Ave needs more tree boxes
 - How do we/I make an idea happen?
 - 1 small tree does NOT make up for an oak
 - Envious of tree wire conflicts in NW, envious of their big trees

- EE – the number of tree spaces is growing - we are doing it!
 - There are overhead wires in 40% of the city, 17%-20% of tree spaces are under wires
- New opportunities?
 - Revise GAR (green area ratio) for trees
 - Trees on rooftops
 - Policy on impervious surfaces
 - Low-income housing redevelopment
- What % of heritage trees on private property? Estimated 5% of all trees are heritage trees across DC
- Is the heritage tree provision a proxy for soil protection (e.g. plantable space)? In many cases, heritage trees are near the end, with < 20 years of life left?
- St. E's is interesting example:
 - 1. New road network (DDOT ROW)
 - 2. Public facilities (Sports & Entertainment)
 - 3. Private land – town homes; where special and heritage tree law applies (and contractor fined for unpermitted tree removal)
- DDOT has authority to review trees on all DC capital projects, and accomplishes heritage and special tree protections during construction where feasible
- The Government and the public benefit from the flexibility
- DCHA has largest # of units/parcels in DC gov.
 - Planting large # of trees
 - Roadway re-alignment to conform to grid
 - Barry Farm will be done with a better urban forest
- Income contingent hazard tree mitigation program
 - Resident & owner, enrolled in another income contingent program
- RI Ave streetscape plan was in active design; complicated due to property design issues (retaining walls, etc.)

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45pm

Next date & location meeting: DDOT 55 M Street SW, 2pm.