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 inorder 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!
  o There are overhead wires in 40% of the city, 17%-20% of tree spaces are under wires
• New opportunities?
  o Revise GAR (green area ratio) for trees
  o Trees on rooftops
  o Policy on impervious surfaces
  o 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:
  o 1. New road network (DDOT ROW)
  o 2. Public facilities (Sports & Entertainment)
  o 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.
  o Planting large # of trees
  o Roadway re-alignment to conform to grid
  o Barry Farm will be done with a better urban forest
• Income contingent hazard tree mitigation program
  o 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.