District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Chair - DDOT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Chair - DOEE:</td>
<td>Steve Saari</td>
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<td>Meeting Scribe:</td>
<td>Jim Woodworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEETING TITLE:</td>
<td>UFAC Spring Meeting, Web-Ex</td>
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Call to order: 10:00AM, Friday, January 14, 2022

Council Members (* if in attendance):

- Steve Saari, DOEE*
- Patrick Campbell, NPS*
- Nathan McElroy, Pepco
- Earl Eutsler, DDOT*
- Maureen Alonso, GSA*
- Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.*
- Brent Sisco, DPR
- Maureen Holman, DC Water*
- Delores Bushong, comm. rep.*
- Angela Scott, DGS
- Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees*
- Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.*
- Maureen Holman, DC Water*
- Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.*
- Carol Herwig, comm. rep.*

Invited Guests:

- Robert Corletta, DDOT
- Stephen Gyor, OP
- Peter Norden, DPR
- Joi Ruffin, DCPS
- Matt Weber, DOEE
- Kasey Yturalde, DDOT
- Stephanie Free, NCPC
- Sally Claggett, USFS
- Julie Mawhorter, USFS
- Phillip Rodbell, USFS
- Nancy Sonti, USFS
- Mary Pat Rowan, community
- Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees
- Rob Shaut, Casey Trees
- Iris Allen, MD DNR
- Ashlyn Pouvaranukoah, UDC
- Annie Acostia, community
- Allison Clausen, community
- Yasha Magarik, DDOT
- Spenser Balog, Casey Trees
- Rick Turcotte, USFS

Quorum: YES
UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions – Jim Woodworth, DOEE
2. Forest Health updates – Kasey Yturralde, DDOT Urban Forestry Division
   - Spotted Lanternfly – Lycorma delicatula
   - Invasive Species - Spotted Lantern Fly | DDOT Urban Forestry (dc.gov)
   - Forest Health | DDOT Urban Forestry (dc.gov)
     - Not a fly but a hopper, “1” long
     - Native to SE asia
     - Not an infestation in DC, yet; several sightings in DC including pointsettia live plant in Tenley Town Whole Foods, arboretum, NE DC Minn Ave metro station area, late summer/early fall 2021.
     - Feeding off of wide host range of 70 different potential hosts, including trees (Ailanthus is preferred host); including agricultural crops, vineyards, fruit orchards, walnut, urban pest
     - ‘Trap tree’; removal of tree of heaven
     - 2018 training workshop; 2019 trapping with USDA Aphis (trap tree at USNA)
     - Management plan options and monthly calls w/DOEE, USNA, Casey Trees, DPR, NPS, others. Next call is Feb 1st.
   - Crape myrtle bark scale
     - Hymyptera order
     - From Texas in 2004
     - 2021 Becky Schwartz discovered; finding it throughout District
     - Other hosts include boxwood, persimmon, apple
     - Does not outright kill; feeding damage leads to sooty mold from honey dew secretions
     - Twig die-back; delayed/reduced flower/harder to photosynthesize
     - Insecticides and horticultural oil (less effective)
     - Texas A&M, Dr. Goo; workshop this coming Fed/March; series of videos
     - Incorporate what we know to our planting spec.
   - Ashlyn Pouvaranukoa, UDC – oak survey – possibly share results at future UFAC meeting

3. Langdon Park Forest Patch project update – Delores Bushong, Mary Pat Rowan, and Alison Clausen, community members
   - “It is axiomatic that it is easier to sustain existing native communities than it is to reestablish them”
   - Seedling regeneration in area of 2020 disturbance and 2021 replanting
   - Inspired by Tree Summit presentations (Nany Sonti in 2019, onsite with Earl in 2021)
   - Mapped out quadrants for seedling inventory – 52x40 foot plot
   - Flagged and identified each tree in October 2021
• SW quadrant (20x26) – 86 total, 10 species
• 10 species, 176 seedlings! In whole plot
• Very few seedling regeneration elsewhere in forest patch
• Why regenerated here!? (soil disturbance, mulching, watering, removal of invasives
• Casey Trees grant – Community Stormwater Solutions thru DOEE/Ches. Conservancy
  • Forest walk pathway; clearing invasives, inventory labeling of trees, allow engagement with forest
• Opportunity to explain to residents; takes 10,000 acorns to make one tree!
• Germination is opportunity to talk about forestry
• Interest in expanding forest management to conservation easements

4. Trees, Streams and Beavers – Jim Woodworth, DOEE & Kasey Yturralde, DDOT.
• Recent beaver recolonization and dam activity in Watts Branch and Nash Run
  • 4 dams in each stream
  • Follows stream restoration work from past decade, from ecosystem perspective, this is a positive development; beavers are really good at stream restoration! This is a good sign of health!
  • Several hazardous trees in/adjacent to public space
• MPD called in siting/complaint
  • UFD felled several trees and left on site.
• Coordinated several work days to identify trees by location and species to install welded wire fencing
• Site meeting with Ecotone
• Can we identify modified planting strategies over longer term
• Other management strategies to feed their need while protecting other areas? Can we take advantage of their preferences?
• Engaging regional partners (NPS, City Wildlife, others)

5. Urban Wood Reutilization partnership with USFS and Architect of the Capitol (AOC) – Earl Eutsler, DDOT Urban Forestry Division
• The People’s Tree on capitol lawn
• 50,000 Ornaments made by students from thru-out the country (not from DC however)
• The year’s ‘Sugar Bear’ from Six River’s National Forest in California
• Julie Mawhorter’s USFS-UCF counter-part reached out; coordinating w/Jim Coffman (AOC) USFS reached out to see if tree could be put into urban wood reuse stream
• Slated for removal first week of January; removing lights, ornaments.
• Sunk in giant footer of concrete
• UFD will take possession. End goal to return lightly processed wood to be returned to region in Six Rivers National Forest in CA for re-use programs to repurpose
• Parties are aligned to make into annual partnership (USFS+AOC+DDOT/UFD)
• IDEA PCS has a kiln and a wood working program – could they be involved in the future?
• Cut cookie discs to make ornaments for next year’s tree?
• Fun stuff!

6. District's urban tree canopy change analysis – Earl Eutsler, DDOT Urban Forestry Division
   https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/62580ba81fc34563b1bae8416ee16d
   Landcover update tracking since 2006; prior to that - American Forester study in 2002
   Leverage reports to help guide efforts, where we should prioritize and track our efforts
   USFS robust funder of these studies

History:
• goal 40% goal, SDC in 2011 to attain by 2032;
• Adrian Fenty’s administration in 2009;
• Mayor Gray, advanced timeline by 3 years, 2032.
• Every five years, 4 to date 2006, 2011, 2015, 2020
• Number of delays/challenges
  o E.g. flyovers require secret service in cock-pit; SS refused due to COVID...

Methodology: Combine 2 sets of data:
• Pleides satellite imagery (4 color band)
• LIDAR – elevation information to distinguish tree cover from other low growing vegetation

Findings:
• Summarized across all geographies including all 8 wards, and updated ward boundaries, ANC's, SMD's, census blocks, parcel level ownership
• Saw decrease from 1-1.5% from 2015 to 2020, from 38.5->37%
• Change in acreage 565 acres lost; fairly substantial;
• Net change from 2006 to 2020, still up by 425 acres
• In all land use categories there was either no change or decrease
  o With exception of ROW; planting ~8k trees per year over past decade; managing to eek out an increase in past 5 year period; validation of approach!
• Leverage all 4 studies to understand gains and losses over 4 studies/3 periods
• Numerous examples of gains/losses:
  o in ROW in past 10-15 year: Valley, Wheeler, Shipley Ter.
  o Losses: Fort Lincoln/Lowes/Costco/housing
  o St. E’s East – sports and entertainment arena, new housing, new hospital
  o Barry Farm redevelopment
  o DHS/Homeland security 295 exit ramp ~ 20 acres; not all lost for good, but lost for the remainder of tree canopy goal timeline.
  o Evidence of loss of ash at Roosevelt Island due to EAB – emerald ash borer infestation; caused island to be closed for extended period to remove hazard trees.
• Tree Protection legislation in action:
  o Fannie Mae HQ – 3 heritage tree relocations, exciting solution!
• PEPCO: right tree right place under wires; but also large trees in spaces that can accommodate them; a lot of engineering for mature trees to co-exist when possible; DC-PLUG (power line undergrounding project);
• Planting more (smaller) trees when a larger tree is removed to achieve net canopy; tree boxes v. continuous strips are key factor/limitation;
• Reinforces need to be planting as aggressively as possible across city, collectively
• Distribution of - and access to- tree canopy
  o Inversely coorelated with population density
  o May not have space to create 40% canopy in a particular neighborhood
  o AF Tree Equity score
  o proximity to trees and canopy is important consideration
  o rule of 3/30%/300
    ▪ see 3 trees from window
    ▪ live in a Neighborhood of 30% canopy
    ▪ no more than 300 meters from a robust greenspace
• trends of population growth, building permits, impervious cover all increasing

Take-aways, next steps to get us toward 40%
• highest priorities:
  o double-down efforts to install trees on private property
    ▪ area of greatest opportunity to increase
  o maintain full stocking of tree trees ~97-98% in ROW
  o partnerships with sister DC agencies, continuing to deliver tree services to all District lands
  o continuing coordination w/partners on capital improvement projects
  o continuing 5 year intervals of analysis

Next meeting poll to come soon, for late March/early April.

Meeting adjourned: 12:01 pm