

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council meeting minutes

Meeting Chair - DDOT	Earl Eutsler	Earl.eutsler@dc.gov	202.673.6813
Meeting Chair - DOEE:	Steve Saari	Steve.saari@dc.gov	202.535.2961
Meeting Scribe:	Jim Woodworth	james.woodworth@dc.gov	202.535.2244
MEETING TITLE:	UFAC Spring Meeting, Web-Ex		

Call to order: 2:00PM, Wednesday, May 12, 2021

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.

Invited Guests:

*Stephanie Free, NCPC	*Kasey Yturalde, DDOT	Robert Corletta, DDOT
Stephen Gyor, OP	*Matt Weber, DOEE	
*Maureen Alonso, GSA	Russell Clark, GSA	Rob Shaut, Casey Trees
Sally Claggett, USFS	Julie Mawhorter, USFS	*Phillip Rodbell, USFS
*Deborah Shapley, RMA	Cameron Washington, DGS	*Peter Norden, DPR
Nicolas Williams, DCPS	*Joi Ruffin, DCPS	Jonathan Rifkin, DCPS
Jack Rosacker, community	Mary Pat Rowan, community	*Jeremiah Montague, Commissioner 5c07
*Dr. Laura Leets, Mitre	*Spenser Balog, Casey Trees	*Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees
*Michaila Musman		

Quorum: YES

UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions & Updates – Jim Woodworth, DOEE (15 min)
2. Arbor Day Poe-Tree Contest, Kasey Yturalde (15 min)
 - In augural event; easier than submitting art?
 - 3 categories – Youth, Adult, Haiku
 - Eligibility – tree benefits mentioned; original work
 - Prizes included” tree planting in park/school; recycled urban bench, pop-up arboretum, and Pepco provided tree themed books
 - UFAC and UFD judges, rubric.
 - Oxon run park story time, Capitol Experience Lab
 - Great turn out: 63 submissions
 - 33 youth; 15 adult; 15 Haiku. (JO Wilson submitted majority.
 - Can view winning poems on DDOt website:
 - <https://ddot-urban-forestry-dcgis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/poe-tree>
 - On Arbor Day, poetry displayed in Oxon Run Park
 - Easier to accept poetry than artwork; likely to repeat.
3. Langdon Park Forest Patch Update – Delores Bushong & Mary Pat Rowan
 - Introduced ANC commissioner 5C07 Jeremiah Montague
 - Will be presenting to ANC in June;
 - ~2.2 acres + 2 additional fragments – wetland patch near skate bowl, and smaller area west of 20th street.
 - Easier to sustain existing forest; many benefits provided by forest patch
 - Necessary steps:
 - Signage
 - GIS mapping of trees
 - Long term management plan
 - Various site visits with reps from supporting agencies to provide technical support: DGS, DPR, DOEE, DDOT Casey Trees and USFS.
 - Moving forward:
 - Install signs; control invasives; neighborhood tours
 - Needs Help!
 - Casey Trees did spring planting of 25 trees in area that had been cleared
 - Arcgis map link of inventory
 - Outreach flyer door to door to welcome new neighbors!
 - Continuing threats
 - Invasive vines
 - Clearcutting/mowing of edge
 - Future construction of rec center
 - Pest and diseases
 - Illegal dumping
 - New signs will help people know this area is valued
 - Without forest succession, we can't have a healthy forest!
 - Sycamores and tulip trees responding very positively to 1 year of vine management
 - Poison ivy is a safety hazard that is hindering ability to manage invasives
 - Want people to feel comfortable walking into woods; schools, educational uses is part of vision....
 - Planning funding for rec center construction in fy23
 - Construction in fy24; DPR will work to be sure to protect these areas

- USFS may have local videographers that may want to help document.
 - Stillmeadow project in Baltimore; removing hazardous ash trees.
 - Inspiration for Langdon project came from work in Baltimore!
 - Field trip w/Nancy Sonti was post-poned due to wet weather
4. Ward 8 Tree Challenge – Dr. Lauren Leets, Mitre & Brenda Richardson, Friends of Oxon Run
- Mitre Corporation is a FFRDC – federally funded research and development center
 - Engineers and social scientists
 - Chartered to work in the public interest
 - Using research funds for community driven tree challenge
 - Partnership w/Friends of Oxon Run, Casey Trees, DDOT, DOEE
 - Targeted Ward 8 during COVID-19
 - JBAB, DCHA were focus of initial outreach
 - Meetings and site visits in May, across wards 5, 7, 8.
 - Highland Dwellings – 60+ trees
 - Doug Moody key contact
 - Perceptions of urban forest thru community interviews
 - Earl and Brenda on Kojo Nnamdi
 - Process nudges: Free tree planting journey map to set expectations; QR code
 - Earth Day Washington Informer special issue, FOO webpage
 - Inaugural ward 8 tree challenge:
 - schools, churches, private property tree plantings
 - community connections
 - \$100 giftcard raffle/poetry contest w/Malcolm X Elementary School
 - Helped cause to be planted several hundred trees over current and future seasons
 - Friends of Oxon Run Park partner award
 - Young’s Memorial Church memory forest, using trees on reclaimed vacant lot to remember the fallen due to gun violence
 1. Public-private partnership
 2. Desire for signage to recognize partners
5. Tree Report Card – Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees
- Since 2008, recent grades of A, A-
 - <https://caseytrees.org/2021/05/what-grade-did-dc-recieve-for-the-2020-tree-report-card/>
 - Amazing progress as a group of stakeholders
 - 50% tree canopy & 850,000 population
 - As population goes back up, can tree canopy as well? That is the challenge
 - 4 metrics:
 - Coverage - 95% based on earlier measurements in 2016, 38%
 1. New canopy coming out in 3-4 months
 2. Hope it will not regress, but go up a little bit, despite development
 - Health – B-/83%
 1. – not updated this year with new data
 2. I-tree-Eco not repeated; but District doing parallel FIA study, but awaiting ROCR plots to be collected soon;
 - Planting – 126%/A+

1. Knocked out of park: 13,182
 2. DDOT, DOEE, Casey Trees, others
 3. beating benchmark of 10,500, continue to exceed
 - Protection – 95%
 1. Complex grade
 2. Are fees and fines being levied keeping pace with inflation?
Recommendation that it should be adjusted upwards
 3. Are fees and fines being used to plant replacements? Yes, going into Special Tree Fund
 4. Are the replacement trees surviving? Based on data, ~10 trees are planted for each special tree removed; 2 of 10 are surviving and becoming special trees.
 5. Are heritage trees being protected or relocated?
 - a. 140 protected
 - b. 2 relocated
 - c. 14 remove w/fines
 - Recommendations:
 - USFS and NPS collaborate to complete FIA inventory
 - Amend UFPA to clarify when a tree preservation plan is required during development review process; and to be reviewed and approved by profession at UFD
 - Adjust fee and fine structure to account for inflation
 - Provide DDOT UFD with stop work order authority to protect special/heritage trees
 - Expand UFPA to include trees on DC Government property
6. Rock Creek Park Forest Inventory – Mark Buscaino, Patrick Campbell
- Overall NPS is supportive
 - NPS has regional monitoring process as well, similar to FIA
 - Complimentary data, excited to see it.
 - USFS wants to keep plot coordination unknown whereas NPS wants to know
 - NEPA process, research permit, potential impact by researcher, safety and security, administratively closed areas/hazardous waste
 - If FOIA'd, NPS has to provide data... refer to USFS
 - 7 plots; 5 NPS parks w/in District do have plots; trying to align in same way
 - Working towards decision/resolution in several weeks, uncertain of how to compromise
 - ROCR unwilling to sign NDA; other plots were sampled
 - ROCR only NPS park where access was denied
 - All 6 parks have agreed not to renew permits until terms met
 - Incomplete study
 - Access denied?
 - USFS unwilling to meet terms, NDA was for a private land owner not a federal partner; instructed by Solicitor to not sign it.
 - MOA btwn USFS- NPS, expired in 2019 re plot locations
 - New Draft MOA circulating with language retained
 - 2 levels of plot disclosure
 1. Specific locations w/NDA
 2. Public, generalized locations to give broad sense w/in ½ mile

- Is lack of District statehood a factor in this administrative quagmire?
- Possibility to do field data collection together – all partners

7. Spring Tree Planting Numbers

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- Casey Trees:
 - 1,385 to-date; projected to do 1,850 for spring;
 - FY21 ~2,933 trees
- DDOT:
 - – 8,272 trees this year; ~near full stocking – 98.12%
 - Ward 5 = 98.05% planted!
 - Transitioning to establishment watering
 - Alternative ROW locations, e.g. Suitland Parkway; 295; 11th st bridge/M Street embankment; Suitland orchard.
- GSA: do not have tree planting totals; will collect numbers. Reforestation planting at FDA White Oak in April
- NPS: usually report in October end of FY
- Brenda – concerns w/mowing on certain NPS parcels; NPS has pulled back on its mowing for variety of reasons (climate change, meadow restoration, aesthetic reasons) especially in battlefield parks. Signage helps convey intended management goals and counter concerns that it looks weedy, neglected. DOEE working with partners at a variety of sites on signage for natural areas, meadows, wetlands, forested areas.

8. Meeting adjourned: 3:55pm