

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, September 21, 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.*
		Carol Herwig, comm. rep.*

Invited Guests:

Robert Corletta, DDOT	Stephen Gyor, OP	Peter Norden, DPR
Joi Ruffin, DCPS	Cameron Washington, DGS	Matt Weber, DOEE
Kasey Yturalde, DDOT	Stephanie Free, NCPC	Russell Clark, GSA
Patricia Leopold, NIACS	Annamarie Rutledge, NIACS	Sally Claggett, USFS
Julie Mawhorter, USFS	Phillip Rodbell, USFS	Nancy Sonti, USFS
Deborah Shapley, RMA	Jack Rosacker, community	Mary Pat Rowan, community
Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees	Spenser Balog, Casey Trees	Rob Shaut, Casey Trees
Michaila Musman, Casey Trees	Andrew Schichtel, Casey Trees	

Quorum: YES

UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions & Updates
 - Minutes from previous meeting approved
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2. Climate Change and our Urban Forest -- Patricia Leopold & Annamarie Rutledge, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS)
 - Chartered by USDA FS, partnerships and w/several universities, state agencies, conservation organizations, other stakeholders at all scales
 - DDOT/HSEMA/DOEE/NPS
 - 2020 adaptation workbook <https://adaptationworkbook.org> – to prepare for and adapt for CC
 - Specific to DC's tree inventory to estimate impacts of CC on street tree population
 - ~15,000 trees annual -> help ensure that we make strategic, thoughtful, informed decisions to be resilient to pest and pathogens, known and unknown
 - Climate Change response framework -> Vulnerability assessments, Forest adaption resources and demonstrations
 - Natural ecosystems as well as urban/metropolitan areas
 - Focus on tree species and forest responses, distribution, etc.
 - Baseline on regional vulnerability w/o recommendations/judgements
 - <https://forestadaption.org/assess/ecosystem-vulnerability/mid-atlantic>
 - (2-page hand-outs to download)
 - Useful resource climate change tree atlas, model projected changes/shifts based on FIA inventory data www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas
 - E.g. high vulnerability – Coastal plain maritime forest
 - Salt tolerance is one important variable w/r to sea level rise, inundation, storm surge, flooding, etc.
 - Adaptation Workbook to work through strategies and approaches to refine adaptation actions (e.g. silvicultural practices)
 - Climate & Health Action Guide <https://vibrantcitieslab.com/guides/climate-health-action/guide/>
 - Tree Species Projections and vulnerability
 - Adaptive capacity -> adaptive capacity scoring [range: -3 (not tolerant) to 0 (neutral) to 3 (tolerant)].
 - For DC region, scored 100 species
 - E.g. Hemlock (low) v. Ginkgo (hi)
 - Future shifting to cold hardiness zone 8 and into 9...
 - Heat zone – predicted shift to 8, 9 or 10 (!!)
 - Zone suitability combines hardiness zones and heat zone tolerances
 - <https://forestadaption.org/assess/ecosystem-vulnerability/urban/washington-dc>
 1. Revise street tree planting list to improve resilience to pests and pathogens
 2. Inform elm management
 3. Longitudinal mortality study

- Increased stress from temp, extreme heat and moisture, pests, phenology changes and pollinators
- Facilitate composition adjustments through species transitions
 1. Favor or restore native species that are expected to be adapted to future conditions; explore new cultivars sourced from area w/in projected hardiness zones; chose native species from southern hardiness zones
- DDOT use of 'near native' species
 - Some resistance to bringing in non-natives and cultivars in many communities
 - How to define native community? Local and not-so-local
 - Seed zone guidance plans – Region 9
 - Assisted migration plans emerging
 - What should be promoted, demoted?
 1. Water tupelo
 2. Can diversity oak species, but still have too many Quercus

3. Updates on new ARPA funded work and other new efforts -- Steve Saari, DOEE

- New funds for District efforts:
 - Watershed protection division:
 - Dump-Busters – cameras for areas of high illegal dumping, to track catch, cleanup; often forest edge areas along parklands, is related to forest management
 - Kingman Island Ranger program to fill needs for environmental education, invasive species management, safety presence for visitors, job training, 2 FTE, 3 seasonal staff; coordination with Anacostia Highschool to create pathway to summer and long term jobs
 - Green stormwater infrastructure maintenance on District lands
 - GSI job training
 - RiverCorps, District residents
 - Returning Citizens
 - GSI maintenance work on District lands
 - Standing up new effort
 - Contracts (~\$6 mil) and RFA grant (~\$1 mil, Oct 12th)
 - Increase coverage, decrease total cost
 - 3 years of funding
 - DOEE also expanding solar, renter assistance, utility assistance and lead pipe replacement efforts

4. DDOT Massachusetts Ave NW Rehabilitation Project (MARP) and Restore Mass Ave (RMA) – Deborah Shapley, RMA

- Campaign for shade
- Historic landscape of Tilia, two rows of trees
- Mission focused on planting and maintenance
- Community plantings w/embassies, other partners
- Increased 13% from 2006 to 2015

- MARP from Dupont Circle to Waterside Drive, \$23 mil
 - Trying to make this a model; monitoring construction
 - Goal to get utilities/infrastructure involved in trees!
 - Concurrent with Washington Gas replacement
 - <https://restoremassave.org/marp-plans/>
 - Attempt to keep new locations for storm drains and light poles clear of tree roots
 - New opportunities for structural soils, flexi-pave and root trenching
 - Tree protection fencing; allows for signage; makes watering and weeding more difficult;
 - Not feasible to protect entire CRZ in ROW projects;
 - Anywhere staging is occurring is w/in the LOD;
 - DDOT standard, requirements vary;
 - DDOT/UFD responds quickly; contractors don't always follow requirements;
 - The more that community is aware of regulations, the more it can be enforced;
 - Continuously improved! High compliance rates of recent
 - How reward good green performance?
 - Flyers w/check-list of top 5 things to observe, and QR code to link to RMA webpage; report pathways to:
 - RMA HQ, forwarded to:
 1. Milani
 2. DDOT IPMD
 3. DDOT UFD
 4. Wash Gas
 5. 311
 - Total of 37 entries to-date
 - Project Highlights Importance of Issues:
 - Planning & Community Notice
 - Tree planting and modeling canopy changes
 - Considering and Protecting remaining forest patches and urban 'old growth'
 - Interaction of paving surfaces, heat absorption/reflection and trees/shade
 1. Special paint, colors
5. Other items and announcements
- Langdon Park Forest Patch signs installed!
 - Inspired by prior Tree Summit presentation by Nancy Sonti
 - 60 new seedlings in recently disturbed area of wooded area
6. Meeting adjourned: 4:12 pm