## 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>
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<tr>
<td>MEETING TITLE:</td>
<td>UFAC Spring Meeting, Web-Ex</td>
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**Call to order: 2:00PM, Wednesday, September 21, 2021**

**Council Members (* if in attendance):**

- Steve Saari, DOEE*
- Earl Eutsler, DDOT*
- Patrick Campbell, NPS*
- Maureen Alonso, GSA*
- Nathan McElroy, Pepco
- Dennis Chestnut, comm. rep.*
- Brent Sisco, DPR*
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Delores Bushong, comm. rep.*
- Brenda Richardson, 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
UFAC Meeting Notes

1. Welcome, Introductions & Updates
   - Minutes from previous meeting approved

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](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 adaptation 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
     - (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](http://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)
   - 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. Gingko (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
     - 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:
  o 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
        o RiverCorps, District residents
        o Returning Citizens
      • GSI maintenance work on District lands
        o Standing up new effort
        o Contracts (~$6 mil) and RFA grant (~$1 mil, Oct 12th)
        o Increase coverage, decrease total cost
        o 3 years of funding
  o 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