

District of Columbia Urban Forestry Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

DATE: Friday, November 17,
TIME: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Web-Ex

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	Erica Carlsson	Erica.carlsson@dc.gov	202.934.3307
Meeting Title	UFAC Fall Meeting		

Council Members:

Steve Saari, DOEE	Allison Clausen, comm. rep.	Brenda Richardson, comm. rep.
Earl Eutsler, DDOT	Vacant, comm. rep	Angela Scott, DGS
Maureen Alonso, GSA	Maureen Holman, DC Water	Brent Sisco, DPR
Patrick Campbell, NPS	Nathan McElroy, Pepco	Shoshana Sommer, comm. rep

Invited Guests:

Annie Acostia, comm.	Dennis Chestnut, comm.	Nathan Harrington, Ward8Woods	Phillip Rodbell, USFS
Iris Allen, MD DNR	Sally Claggett, USFS	Evan Johnson, GSA	Darryl Ross, comm.
Michael Alonzo, American U	Kelly Collins Choi, Casey Trees	Craig Larcenaire, USFS	Mary Pat Rowan, comm.
Matthew Baker, UMBC	Robert Corletta, DDOT	Joseph Luebke, GSA	Deborah Shapley, RMA
Spenser Balog, Casey Trees	Liz Crafford, comm.	Julie Mawhorter, USFS	Rob Shaut, Casey Trees
John Boland, Casey Trees	Merrit Drucker, Ward 8 Woods	Peter Norden, DPR	Nancy Sonti, USFS
Jeanne Braha, RCC	Stephanie Free, NCPC	Damien Ossi, DOEE	Stella Tarnay, community
Mark Buscaino, Casey Trees	Stephen Gyor, OP	Rasma Plato, GSA	Catherine Stratton Treadway, comm.
Delores Bushong, comm.	Bay Hanson, USFS	Ashlyn Pouvaranukoah, comm.	Matt Weber, DOEE

SCHEDULE:

TIME	Agenda Item
1:00-1:05	<p>Welcome, Introductions, & Minutes - Erica Carlsson, DOEE & Earl Eutsler DDOT UFD (5 min)</p> <p>Minutes approved</p> <p>Second World Forum of Urban Forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC had the distinct honor and pleasure of hosting the 2nd World Forum 2nd Oct 16-20. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1100 attendees from more than 60 countries visit Washington for a 5-day event. ○ The program was incredible and information-dense. ○ Brenda Richardson keynote speaker ○ DDOT presented and led two tours ○ Nancy Sonti presented ○ Debrah Shapely organized Embassy tree planting ceremony at 7 embassies on the 17th and 18th of October.

1:05-1:20	<p>Forest Health and Urban Wood Reuse Updates - DDOT UFD - (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Service and Architect of the Capital Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recycle the US Capital Christmas tree annually ○ Ruby – Red Spruce from 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tree created 3 banjos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to stay with the National Forest • 1 auctioned off for the black banjo reclamation project • 1 produced for the Southern Highland Reserve to raise funds for a new greenhouse ○ 2023 tree coming from Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia
1:20-1:25	<p>Proposed Office of Natural Conservation bill - Brenda Richardson (5 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council member, Janice George, and nine of her colleagues introduced legislation for the Office of Natural Area Conservation Establishment Act of 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housed at DOEE ○ Maintain District owned and managed natural areas ○ Focus on invasive plant species that surround and threaten forests ○ DDOT responsibilities remain the same • Mother’s Peace Garden at Oxon Run Park spiritual memorial planting trees in tribute to those who have fallen to gun violence at Washington Highlands (Public Housing Community).
1:25-1:30	<p>Legislative Update - Kelly Collins-Choi, Casey Trees (5 min)</p> <p>Legislation all referred to committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Natural Area Conservation Establishment Act of 2023 • Environmental Justice Amendment Act of 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-introduced by Council members Park, Henderson, and Mcduffy ○ Address overburdened communities, particularly Wards 5,7, and 8 ○ Establish cumulative environmental impact statements to ensure that development projects don't create additional environmental harm to these communities ○ Establish Office of Energy and Environmental Justice at DOEE • Tree Preservation Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council member Mendelson introduced ○ Address special heritage tree laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the size of special trees
1:30-1:50	<p>Casey Trees Report Card - Casey Trees (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out the website: https://caseytrees.org/treereportcard2022/ • Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase fees and fines for the removal of special heritage trees (inflation). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current fees result in the loss of 1,500 trees not being planted for replacement annually. ○ Lower the special tree designation from 14” down to 10” in diameter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heritage or the special tree designation protects about 15% of the trees in the city. Lowering the threshold to 8” in diameter would protect about 20% percent of the city's canopy. ○ Require all fees and fines are deposited into the tree fund Is required by law.
1:50-2:00	<p>Linnean Forest Restoration Project - Erica Carlsson and John Burwell (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream restored in 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receives runoff from 25 acres ○ Restored 900 feet of stream • Mostly wooded 6 acres in the Forest Hills Community in NW DC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receives runoff from 25 acres • Tree plantings starting in 2014 • Friends of Linnean Group (DPR) in 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer clean-ups ○ Invasive removal ○ Boy Scout troop projects like bridge ○ SCA + water bars to redirect runoff ○ Created sign for park with interpretive information • Forest Hills Connection newsletter (Marlene Berlin) highlights work and gets neighbors involved. • New construction erosion issue reported this summer • Reforestation project behind the Kuwaiti Embassy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Casey Trees Planted 10 trees (Silver Maple, Tulip Poplar, White Oak, and Swamp Spanish Oak) in Spring 2021. ○ DOEE Forest Restoration Project started in April 2022 to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NO NOW Signs ▪ River Corps and LAYC planted new trees and shrubs ~ 45 (e.g. Bald Cypress, American Sycamore, Willow Oak, American Holly, <i>Viburnum nudum</i>, + Spice bush) ▪ Several tree protection visits and work ○ Current Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Native Saplings have volunteered! Tulip Poplar, Eastern Red Bud, White Ash, American Beech, Box Elder, Easter Red Cedar, Persimmon, American Holly, and American Burn Weed. ▪ Invasives are taking over in areas to include Fountain Grass, Japanese Knotweed, Porcelain Berry, English Ivy, Periwinkle, False Nettle, Mile-a-min, and Japanese Stilt Grass ○ Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued work from John Burwell, LAYC, and community volunteers will help to protect trees, remove invasives, and provide stewardship to the watershed. ▪ Removal of invasive exotic weed infestation needed to support new plant growth
2:00-2:30	<p>Miyawaki Forests - Casey Trees (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old practice with new interest past five years • Developed by Japanese botanist in the 1970s based on his operation of dense forest stands around old temples in Japan. • Close planting of trees that encourage competition between the trees, which leads to much more rapid growth than a traditional planting that has trees that ~ 20 feet on center and emphasizes layers and diversity. • One of these forests can be as small as a thousand square feet. • Looking for a good place to try in DC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good sites are impacted by development, agriculture, or urban land. • Four layers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Top layer (canopy) ○ Mid-tree layer ○ Subtree layer (understory) ○ Shrub layer (dense) • Some risk of disease • Rapid forest growth • Recommend soil amendments • 3 – 5 plants per square meter • Bare root or small containers • Some watering and weeding required for maintenance in first two years

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted all over the world and hopeful more in USA • Increases Biodiversity • Positive mental health impacts
2:30-2:40	<p>Activating Queen's Chapel Forest - Allison Clausen (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward 5 • Owned by DGS and DDOT and Pepco ROW • Steep slope bottom industrial zone • Cement factory and waste transfer site • Pollution and noise • Elementary School, Senior Center, and large residential area • Forest as buffer between areas • Advocacy to protect in 2022 when City wanted to develop forest patch to add fire station. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire station up the road needed to be relocated ○ Did not communicate much with community ○ Agencies told us it's a done deal ○ Partnered with CT, faculty at Trinity U. for air quality and temperature and DOEE wetlands to pursue conservation. ○ Some land added to wetlands registry. ○ Reviewed Heritage trees but invasive exotic Mulberry ○ Testified at budget and oversight hearings to say the community has not been involved and would like to move. ○ Went door to door with flyers and people were shocked and outreached. They called Councilmember Parker, Mayors office, and eventually DGS fenced the project. Big Win! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After architectural plans and assessments and even a poured driveway. ○ Flagged young trees ○ DPW to remove trash and tires ○ Overgrown bushes trimmed ○ Want to increase opp for nature enjoyment and wellness ○ Would like trails added into 4-acre forest patch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comments about fragmentation and balancing that with recreation ▪ DDOT rec trails recommendation
2:40-2:50	<p>Announcements & Closing Remarks (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of Deborah Shapley's work at World Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thanks to DDOT and CT