

Advisory Committee on Trees – July 23, 2019

Call to order 7:15

Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Robert Trumbule (member), Brian Townsend (staff liaison and Assistant Director Public Works and Parks).

Review and approve June ACT minutes with corrections

Old Business

1 – Eleanor Roosevelt memorial tree. Letters in June 20 and June 23 Greenbelt News Review expressed concern about the death of two trees selected as memorial trees to Eleanor Roosevelt. They were located next to Crescent Road, with a fence around the tree and a plaque. The letters made a plea for the city to take better care of Mrs. Roosevelt's memorial trees. We discussed specific trees and alternative locations for the new memorial tree. Bob suggested the American holly cultivar 'Satyr Hill' for its nice shape (similar to the tree depicted on Greenbelt City masthead), and its hardiness. Other trees suggested were the Dawn Redwood and the native Bald Cypress. Ethel suggested contacting the Cypress Swamp Park in Calvert County to obtain a specimen from this local Maryland population. We also discussed a better location for the tree. There is little firm documentation that Mrs. Roosevelt actually gave a speech at the location of the present memorial tree. Ethel suggested a place near the Community Center because Mrs. Roosevelt did visit the Center school and was interested in the children's "Lollipop Coop" where candy and school supplies were sold. Perhaps the Greenbelt Museum could suggest a tree that Mrs. Roosevelt liked other than the Ash tree.

2 – Sustainable Land Care Policy Work Session, July 15, 2019.

All ACT members attended the work session. Public Works prepared a handout with several versions of the document. One version had additions requested by Green ACES in contrasting blue type. The version under discussion (2019) was one which incorporated suggestions from Public Works staff and advisory boards/committees on the 2017 version. Also attending were members of Green ACES, Forest Preserve and Recreation Advisory Boards. All the advisory committee/board comments supported approval of the document with some additions. Discussion included concerns about pesticide use and the advisability of rejecting a broad class of pest management tools (chemical pesticides). Public Works staff will review suggestions and comments and incorporate as they see fit. In a few weeks City Council will review the document and vote on it.

New Business

1 – City Council annual Work Session with Chairs of Advisory Boards/Committees.

Charles attended this meeting and reported on ACT activities. He mentioned ACT's work with Davey Resource Group on the Greenbelt Urban Forest Master Plan. He also mentioned the Walking Tree Tour that was part of Fall Fest held in Schrom Hills last October and the Arbor Day tree planting held March 30, 2019. One council member asked that a future Arbor Day tree planting be held near Greenbelt Station. Other topics discussed were Open Meetings training (Charles attended this training last year), and the pros and cons of having advisory boards/committees allow remote participation in board/committee meetings.

2- Presentation of length of service pins

Brian presented Bob Trumbule with his 20 year pin. He presented Ethel Dutky with her 5 year pin. However Ethel joined ACT in 2006, so she already has her 5 year pin, and also her 10 year pin. We congratulated Bob for his long service, and thanked Brian.

Adjourn 9:15 PM

Next ACT Meeting will be Tuesday, August 27 at 7PM at Public Works.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky