

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – June 20, 2017**

Call to order 7PM

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Bill Phelan (Emeritus member), Erin Josephitis (Environmental Coordinator and filling in for City liaison Brian Townsend who could not be present), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Bob Trumbule (member).

Minutes for May 23 approved with Corrections.

### **Old Business**

#### **1 - Report on the number of members on ACT.**

Charles has written and submitted on June 4 the ACT Report #2017-1 – Size of the Advisory Committee on Trees. ACT reviewed and made suggestions on the report via e-mail. We await a response from the City Council.

#### **2 - Tree Master Plan Vision Statement.**

Rachel Comte accepted the ACT suggestions for revision of the vision statement.

#### **3 - Progress of the Tree Master Plan**

Erin reported that Rachel has moved to another project. The City Tree Master Plan Document will be completed soon and made available for review.

#### **4 - Status of the Sustainable Land Care Plan?**

Erin informed us that Richard Fink (Superintendent of Parks and Grounds) has resigned and left to take a position in Seattle, Washington. ACT would very much like to have another opportunity to review the revised document before it is approved as City policy. Erin reported that the Forest Preserve Health Assessment Management Plan needs to be reviewed and approved. Once this is done Public Works will get back to final review and approval of the Sustainable Land Care document.

#### **5 - PEPCO tree planting. Erin reports for Brian Townsend.**

The tree planting has gotten about 200 trees in the ground. Erin provided a list of trees left to be planted in the fall. Public Works will be providing irrigation to these trees to keep them alive through the hot summer.

### **New Business**

#### **1 - Search for places to plant more trees.**

Bill Phelan suggested that ACT should review streets for “skips” and other open areas that could be used to plant additional trees.

#### **2 - Threat of Asian Longhorned Beetle.**

Bill Phelan attended a meeting on the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). The scientific consensus is that the ALB will eventually be established in the US East coast forests. Several urban infestations were not detected until the beetle had spread into adjacent forest areas where it is much more difficult to eliminate. Susceptible tree species are seriously damaged by ALB and usually must be removed. ACT should review the literature on susceptible and resistant trees species, and prepare a list of resistant species to be used for replacement if/when the ALB arrives in Greenbelt. Bob stressed the need to plan for continued aesthetic usefulness when susceptible trees are removed. One method would be to alternate susceptible species with resistant species so removal of infested trees would not result in large gaps in the street tree canopy. Bob will bring lists of susceptible and resistant trees for next meeting.

The discussion shifted to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an exotic insect which has arrived in Greenbelt and killed most of the Ash street and landscape trees. Bob explained we may have evidence

to suggest that introduction of parasites and predators of EAB may succeed in an acceptable level of control. A closely related native beetle, the Bronze Birch Borer infests and kills white birch in stressful sites. The complex of native parasites and predators keeps this borer in check and allows the white birch to remain healthy in its normal range. In our area white birch is under stress, and has been replaced with cultivars of the River Birch which has attractive light colored peeling bark, and is resistant to the bronze birch borer.

### **3 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Charles attended a meeting on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Advisory Committee chairs/members. A lot of the discussion concerned the fact that there are several overlapping Master Plans for Greenbelt Parks. Some private Parks and Open Space consultants were also present and participated in the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 18 at 7PM at Public Works.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky