

Advisory Committee on Trees - March 28, 2017

Call to order 7:10 PM.

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Brian Townsend (staff liaison), Erin Josephitis (Environmental Coordinator), Robert Trumbule (member).

Reviewed and approved Feb. 7 minutes with corrections.

Kudos to Erin Josephitis and Connor Roessler for excellent Articles in the Greenbelt News Review.

Short Field Trip to site for Arbor Day Food Forest Planting.

Brian and Erin led a walking tour of the site for the April 8 Arbor Day planting of the “Food Forest”. It will be planted adjacent to the playground in Buddy Attick Park. An interpretive map will be installed to enable the children and other citizens to identify the plants. All plants selected for this site have edible fruit to enrich the area for birds and other wildlife; many have nice showy flowers also. Most of the plants are native, but some are exotic (example, the Chinese Persimmon). Short trees were selected to be planted under the utility lines, while taller trees will provide a screen and taller trees to screen the Public Works Building. Later plantings will add native woodland wildflowers such as ferns, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Trout Lily, May Apple, and others to the site.

Old Business

1 – Vision Statement for the City Tree Master Plan.

ACT submitted a vision statement, as requested, to Ms Rachel Comte on Feb. 22, 2017.

Vision Statement for the Greenbelt Urban Tree Master Planting

“Our vision is to develop a tree master plan for streets and other public areas in the City of Greenbelt. Such a plan will provide for the care, preservation, pruning, planting and replanting of trees as well as the occasional remediation of unhealthy or hazard trees. The tree master plan will also foster the sustainability of Greenbelt's urban oasis and result in the preservation of and increase in Greenbelt's tree canopy coverage for future generations.

2 – The concerned citizen who did not show up to our Feb meeting has not contacted ACT to attend our meeting and discuss her/his concerns.

New Business:

Meeting of Advisory Groups Chairs on February 22.

Charles attended this meeting. He presented a summary of ACT's events, activities, PEPCO tree removals, Tree Tour and City Tree Master Plan. City Council mentioned that there was a rumor that ACT was receiving “kickbacks” from tree removal companies. This is an absurd and false charge. Charles refuted it.

In a letter in the Feb. 23 issue of the News Review a citizen complained that ACT had only three members. We believe that the following statement from the letter “It is not right to limit citizen input to only 3 residents” is untrue and reflects a lack of understanding of how ACT operates. All ACT meetings are open and welcome citizen input. ACT submits minutes for every meeting as well as an agenda prior to each meeting. ACT recommendations are submitted in the form of written reports. J. Davis requested that ACT consider adding additional members. Brian has been requested to bring this topic up at the next ACT meeting. We had a preliminary discussion on the merits of our small committee. We decided to table the topic until our next meeting to allow concerned citizens to attend

and join in the discussion.

Tree Master Plan meeting with Advisory Committees for discussion and input.

Brian informed us that Rachel Comte will discuss the Tree Master Plan with interested members of City Advisory Boards/Committees on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 - 8:30 PM. Representatives from PRAB, Forest Preserve, Green Aces and ACT have been invited to attend.

Training Session on “Conducting and Participating in Effective Meetings” March 16.

Charles attended this session and found it useful and interesting. He shared the handouts with ACT. There was a small attendance with about 10 people present.

Pesticide Sensitivity List.

Brian shared with us a statewide list of persons who suffer from sensitivity to pesticides throughout the state. There are none registered in Greenbelt. Pesticide applicators must contact these individuals of any pesticide applications near their homes. Treated areas must be posted in advance of the application.

Contracts were submitted for application of systemic fungicide to prevent Dutch Elm Disease on two large American Elms and systemic insecticide to prevent Emerald Ash Borer infestation on two large Ash trees in Greenbelt.

Brian informed us that Bartlett Tree has submitted a bid to treat these four large trees. ACT supports this method to protect these four large specimen trees.

Adjourn 9:55 PM

Next meeting April 25, 2017. Changed to April 18, 2017.

submitted by Ethel Dutky