

Advisory Committee on Trees – November 8, 2011

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Lesley Riddle (City liaison), Robert Trumbule, Ethel Dutky (recorder).

Meeting began at 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Minutes approved with corrections for the October 11, 2011 meeting.

Greenbelt 75th celebration

Elisabeth Gournay has invited Bob Trumbule to present a talk on the topic “Tree Protection” at a conference to be held Saturday, April 28. This event is part of the 75th anniversary celebration. ACT is in support of Bob doing this talk, and we think he is the best qualified person. Lesley will be leading a tree tour as part of this event.

Conference on the Baltimore-Washington Partnership for Forest Stewardship.

Lesley and Bob attended the Conference on October 27. One Public Works employee (Luisa) also attended. All thought the conference was excellent. The speakers combined the social aspects of Forest Habitat preservation with the research (biology/ecology) data. Change can be made at the home landscape level as well as at the Park and City levels. ACT supports more outreach to the public through workshops and classes on habitat restoration. Some examples which are already done in Greenbelt include Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, Arbor Day and others.

Report from Public Works

Lesley met with the City Manager and the Director of Recreation & Parks to talk about plans for repair and restoration of the picnic area in Buddy Attick Park. Lesley requests help from ACT in developing a comprehensive plan for this area and for the park as a whole. The long term Master Plan need some updating. The parks are being damaged by too many large group events. Lesley would like Recreation to enforce limits on the size of groups. If the permit is for 75, then 300 should not be permitted. The overall theme for Buddy Attick Park was to provide a place for people to relax in a serene, peaceful setting. Crowding defeats this purpose.

Bob suggested that perhaps we should confer with the staff at Greenbelt Regional Park to see what policies are in place to handle this sort of problem.

Tree Work Update

Lesley reports that several dead London Planes were removed in Roosevelt Center. The soil will be tested to determine if their death was caused by road salt or some other toxic substance accumulating in the soil. Lesley requested that ACT re-issue our advice (from 2007-2008 winter) on the use of less rock salt in Historic Old Greenbelt. Charles will prepare the report and send it to us for review.

Change to the Resolution that established ACT.

Charles passed around copies of revised wording of the resolution which describes the Advisory function of ACT relative to Public Works. ACT supports this revised wording and suggests that the revised Resolution be sent to Cindy Murray and the City Council.

New Business – Plants for Woodland Hill storm damaged area.

A plant list was provided for our review of native plants to be used to restore the area in Woodland Hills damaged by storms in 2010. ACT approved of the list.

New Projects

Lesley suggests that we work on several plans/plant lists to have in reserve: 1- Forest areas; 2 – Park Open Spaces; 3 – Street Tree; 4 – Home landscapes.

Next Meeting December 13, 2011 at 7 PM at the new Deal Cafe.

Adjourned at 8:15 PM.