

Advisory Committee on Trees – September 20, 2011

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

Meeting started at 7 PM at the new Deal Cafe.

Discussion on some concerns from previous meeting

What action to take regarding the bad pruning on Hawthorns on Parkway. These are planted along the street, but are not on City Property. These trees are old, perhaps part of the original planting. We consider these to be significant trees which should not be damaged. Should ACT contact/write the property manager for the apartments in this area?

August minutes reviewed, several additions and deletions were suggested.

ACT Report to City Council on old Callery Pears in Buddy Attick Park and along Crescent Road.

Charles passed out a concise report on this issue. We agree that the report is short, concise and to the point. We suggest that a mention of the re-planting work being done in the forest area near Buddy Attick Lake where storm damage took down a wide strip of large old trees.

Report from Lesley Riddle

Public Works is very concerned about the damage to the main picnic area at Buddy Attick Park. This damage is due to overuse of the picnic area. The soil erosion is causing damage to trees and shrubs, and is unsafe. Public Works has had to remove at least 15 trees due to damage. Lesley proposes that this area of the park be closed in November through late March for repairs and renovation. ACT supports this plan.

We discussed how overuse of the parks is causing damage. It appears that there is poor follow-up by the recreation staff to ensure that the size of groups reserving areas in the parks is appropriate and according to the reservation. In some cases an area reserved for 35 people may have several hundred people show up to use the site. This causes crowding and damage to the parks. Lesley will meet with the City Manager and the Recreation and Parks Department to discuss this issue and methods to correct the overuse problem. ACT strongly supports plans and actions to prevent degradation of our parks.

Public Lands Day -Saturday, September 24

Public Works is doing a project in the woodlands near the Buddy Attick Lake where large numbers of large trees were blown down by storms in 2010. Lesley has arranged for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops to plant trees and shrubs in this area. Lesley has bought several hundred small container grown trees and shrubs. The planting event will start at 10 AM staged from the parking area. Groups will plant in the woodland along the South-west side of the Lake. ACT members are encouraged to attend.

Restoration is planned at a later date for the storm damaged areas near Woodland Hills.

Invasive Species Treatment Project

An area at the Cemetery at Hamilton Place was treated to kill invading Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Another site along Hanover Parkway adjacent to Schrom Hills Park will be treated to kill the developing thicket of Callery Pear seedlings growing along the bank and into the park.

Lesley requests that ACT members take a look at the large willow oak near the Youth Center

near the bike path. It is in decline.

Tree Removal

A large slippery elm on one of the courts off Rosewood was leaning and was removed due to safety concerns.

Irene Storm Damage

Greenbelt was fortunate! There was minimal tree damage from Tropical storm Irene.

Tree Master Plan

Lesley will be working on the City Master Plan for Trees over the winter.

Reminder – Conference of the Baltimore-Washington Partnership for Forest Stewardship will be held on October 27, starting at 10 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting will be on October 11, 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.