

**MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016 IN THE GREENBELT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:0 p.m.

PRESENT were members Valerie Elliott, John Paul Schmit, Damien Ossi, Susan Gregersen and Lauren Young. Mr. Martin, Mr. Murray and Ms. Hoffmeister were absent.

ALSO PRESENT was Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development.

OPENING ROUND: Chair Valerie Elliott invited all present to check in and update the group with any items of interest

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of a report on the findings of the Open Meetings Compliance Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the October 27 meeting were approved by consent.

**REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS COMPLIANCE BOARD:**

Ms. Craze read from the findings of the State of Maryland Open Meetings Compliance Board that in two instances the Forest Preserve Advisory Board had violated provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Elliott, as chair, signed a copy of the findings.

DISCUSSION OF DYNAMIC GOVERNANCE: Since several members have been added to the Board since the Board took its initial training in Dynamic Governance, Ms. Elliott conducted a brief session on the purpose and practice of the Dynamic Governance process. Specific points made were as follows:

- Decisions are made by consent.
- The circle process is used for discussion as it is easier to track a discussion, ensure every member has the opportunity to participate, and guards against monopolization of the discussion by a single or a few members.
- Closing rounds can be used to make suggestions about how the meeting went.
- There was clarification of the term "paramount objection".

PUKMPKIN WALK REVIEW: Ms. Young described her experience. After discussion the following suggestions were made for next year's pumpkin walk pre-inspection:

- Arrange for a specific time for the FPAB member to meet an adult responsible for the event.
- Consider use of battery operated candles.
- Consider relocation of the event to an alternate location.

FOREST PRESERVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT: There was a brief summary of the October 22, 2016 walk-through at the North Preserve. Following the Board discussed issues and questions with the draft assessment:

- The study missed pockets of vegetative diversity.
- Does the report match-up? It is generally correct but with errors.
- Plots do not show scarlet, pin or black oak. It reports northern red oak which has not been observed by Board members.
- How much do observed problems with the study have to do with the recommendations.
- Has done no prioritization.
- Recommendations are not specific enough.
- Data isn't specific enough of fine grained enough to make recommendations.
- The study does not provide a detailed baseline for comparison with future studies.
- There is an overall lack of scientific rigor.
- There is no information to prioritize recommendations.
- Data are not repeatable.
- Should the study be noted that it was not sufficiently rigorous?
- GPS coordinates should be provided for each tree-stand.
- Plots are not randomly selected.

Comments made about the study include:

- Sample plots need GPS coordinates.
- Provide detailed recommendations by forest stand.
- Northern red oaks are misidentified and other trees are not identified at all. Confirm tree species.
- Why was a 1980 map used for forest associations? Evaluate the use of a more recent plant association map.
- Provide smaller scale plant associations and more detailed map. Missed pine barrens which is biologically significant
- Made good recommendations for code and guideline changes.

Goals and recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2016 at the Municipal Building.

CLOSING REMARKS: Final comments by Board members were shared.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia Craze, Director

These minutes were approved by consent.