

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – July 28, 2020**

Call to order at 7:15 PM via ZOOM

Present: Brian Townsend (Assistant Director Public Works and Parks and staff liaison), Charles Jackman (Chair), Bob Trumbule (member)

Not present: Ethel Dutky (recorder)

Charles noted that Ethel would not be able to attend this meeting.

Review of June 9, 2020 minutes postponed until August meeting.

### **Old Business**

1 – Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree (ERMT) Dedication.

As noted previously in minutes, the ERMT dedication will possibly be in October. Given the changing conditions reflecting the continuing pandemic due to COVID-19, the ceremony for the ERMT may have to be postponed or limited in scope.

2 – Documents sent to Leeann Irwin (Forest Preserve Advisory Board member)

Leeann Irwin had attended the June 9<sup>th</sup> ACT Meeting and was interested in some information regarding trees and ACT's work on trees in the city of Greenbelt. Charles sent Leeann via e-mail five documents after the meeting, including: a) Significant Trees in Greenbelt; b) Trees at Schrom Hills Park; c) PG County Champion Tree List for Year 2011; d) ACT Report #2015-1 - "Recommended Trees for Use under Power Lines"; and e) ACT Report #2016-1 - "Recommended Tree Species appropriate for Greenbelt Parks."

### **New Business**

1 – Charles attended the *Advisory Board Chair Work Session* on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, via ZOOM.

Charles reported on the activities of the ACT over the past year in this work session. This ACT report included the Significant Tree Tour as part of Fall Fest on Oct. 26, 2019 as well as the new Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree, which has been planted near the Community Center. Charles also noted at this work session that Arbor Day was postponed this year due to the pandemic.

2 – Vegetation Management Plan for the Franklin Park area of Greenbelt

Brian introduced the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) developed by Davey Resource Group for PEPCO. He suggested two changes to the VMP:

a) Maps 8-9: The VMP shows pruning of 18 Bradford Pear trees away from the power lines. These Bradford Pear trees are in poor condition and riddled with bad branch angle and unbalanced tops due to past power line pruning. It is proposed to remove all 18 Bradford Pear trees and replace with more sustainable trees. This suggested change is in line with the Greenbelt Urban Forest Master Plan.

b) Map 18: The VMP shows removal of three Frontier Elm trees. These three trees appear to be in reasonable shape and it is suggested that these trees not be removed.

*After discussing this proposal, it was moved by Charles and seconded by Bob to agree with and support these two suggested changes to the VMP. This motion carried as there were no objections.*

3 – Tree damage and tree work around Greenbelt

Brian noted that there was quite a bit of damage around the city due to the major rain storms in the previous week. He mentioned that Public Works even had to remove some trees.

Manuel Tree Service (MTS) was hired to perform some detailed pruning of the large specimen Willow Oak at the Green Ridge house. MTS provided much of this pruning work using new chains for their saws. The use of new chains reduces the transfer of any ailment from a diseased tree to a healthy tree. MTS also removed 8 large hazardous trees using a crane and climbers in multiple locations.

Next Meeting, via Zoom: Tuesday, August 25 at 7PM  
Adjourn 8:40PM. Submitted by Charles Jackman