

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – August 25, 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), Megan Young (Greenbelt Museum Director)

Not present: Ethel Dutky (recorder)

Reviewed and approved July 28, 2020 minutes with corrections.

### **Old Business**

1 – Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree (ERMT) Dedication.

The ERMT dedication was discussed. Megan Young, the Greenbelt Museum Director, attended the meeting and offered advice on the event. The ERMT, an American Holly tree, was planted by Public Works personnel in April of this year near the Greenbelt Library and Community Center.

It was decided that the original plaque for the first ERMT, dedicated in 1968, should be moved and installed at this new site. A new plaque will also be installed at the new site with some wording such as “*This tree is a rededication of the Anna Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree done on October 11, 2020, at this site that Eleanor Roosevelt visited on Month Day, Year.*” It was thought that the plaques should be located about 12 feet away from the American Holly tree, because of the expected canopy extension in the next several decades.

The event was tentatively set for October 10, 2020 (rain date of Oct. 17, 2020), as that is close to the birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt, which is October 11, 1884. It was thought that the Greenbelt City Council, the Advisory Committee on Trees, Greenbelt Museum Personnel, Girl Scouts, and other interested parties would be interested in attending. It is still unclear if the ceremony for the ERMT will be held this year or if it will be limited in scope, given the continuing pandemic due to COVID-19. Brian Townsend will check with the City Manager regarding the holding of events of this type in this ongoing pandemic.

2 – Greenbelt Station

Brian Townsend noted that the City of Greenbelt Public Works will soon be taking over responsibility for the trees, other vegetation, and park areas in the Greenbelt Station neighborhood. There was recently a failed inspection where many damaged trees and dead grass were found. Some of the trees had scale infestations and there seemed to be some oak decline. Brian indicated that the procedure for the turnover of responsibility is going slowly and carefully.

3 – PEPCO Trees

Brian Townsend noted that PEPCO will start replacement of 35 trees on August 31, 2020. Brian said that PEPCO had been given the ACT Report #2015-1 on the “Recommended Trees for Use under Power Lines” and the ACT Report #2016-1 on the “Recommended Tree Species appropriate for Greenbelt Parks.” These documents should help PEPCO personnel with their selection of replacement trees.

### **New Business**

1 – Tree branches downed from storms

Brian Townsend noted that there have been a number of complaints regarding downed tree branches from recent rain storms. Public Works employees have worked to remove these throughout the City of Greenbelt.

Next Meeting, via Zoom: Tuesday, September 8 at 7PM  
Adjourn 8:45PM. Submitted by Charles Jackman