

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

Present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Brian Townsend (staff liaison and Assistant Director Public Works and Parks), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Robert Trumbule (member), Mary Ernsberger (guest)  
call to order 7:15 PM on the lawn in Buddy Attick Park  
Review and approve minutes from May 18, 2021 meeting

### **Old Business:**

1- Climate Emergency Mobilization Resolution document.

At our May meeting we reviewed a long document on the topic of the City response to climate change being considered by City Council. We found the document vague and confusing regarding specific actions which the City could take to combat and correct global climate change. June 14, 2021, City Council met and conducted the second review on this issue. Council voted to accept the document. ACT had no opportunity for further input on this issue.

2 -Tree Canopy Enhancement Program

City Council member J. Davis has expressed an interest in a Tree Canopy Enhancement program for Greenbelt. She presented a brief description of the program at the June 14 Council meeting. Brian shared with ACT a 4 page document describing the Tree Canopy Enhancement Program (TCEP), which is currently in use (as of 2017) by the city of College Park. It consists of a program where residents could apply for financial assistance (annual maximum of \$150 or \$750 over 5 years per address) for purchase of each tree and educational assistance to care for the tree. The city horticulturist would inspect the trees and do the paperwork and educational programs. ACT thought this could be a good program provided additional staff is hired to run it.

### **New Business**

1 – City Advisory Boards and Committees Chairs meeting.

Charles attended the meeting of the Chairs of the Advisory Boards and Committees. One topic of concern was the prompt submission of meeting minutes to City Council so that they are open to the public. They are posted on the City web site. ACT is prompt in submitting our minutes but some boards and committees are many months in arrears. Charles reported on recent tree planting events. Concerns were expressed about the negative impact of construction of the MAGLEV. ACT discussed regarding the MAGLEV that our consensus was that it would not be built as presently proposed. Bob and Mary shared past experiences with controversial issues, which faded away due to community opposition. Charles also spoke up about the Cicadas.

2 – Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree

Brian reported that it is still alive, but looking somewhat stressed. Public Works personnel will be applying fertilizer. Due to the pandemic we have not yet had a dedication ceremony for the tree. It is an American Holly cultivar developed by a Maryland nursery. ACT would like to have a dedication ceremony in the fall. Mary advised that Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday is October 11. We agreed that having the dedication near MRS Roosevelt's birthday would be nice. The Girl Scouts are interested in participating. Providing the pandemic permits, we would like to have an outdoor dedication ceremony followed by an indoor (at the Community Center) reception with light refreshments.

3 – Plans for a major upgrade of the parking lot at Beltway Plaza

Brian shared blueprints and landscape plans for this addition to the parking area behind Beltway Plaza. The new townhouses would have two parks with extensive landscaping and two small swimming pools This project is not city funded. We were favorably impressed by the plans and the

trees and shrubs included in the plant list.

4 – Two large old white Ash trees at 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road.

These two old trees became infested with the insect pest Ash Borer when it invaded about 10 years ago. Public Works hires a contractor (Bartlett Tree) to apply insecticide to protect the trees at 2-year intervals. The trees are showing some dead limbs this spring. ACT supports having tree climbers inspect the canopy of both trees and do pruning of dead and dying limbs. ACT supports continued efforts to protect these old Historic trees.

Darkness dictates we adjourn at about 8:45 PM

Next ACT meeting will be July 27 at 7PM at Public Works (indoors)

Respectfully submitted,  
Ethel Dutky