

Advisory Committee on Trees – January 23, 2024

Present: Brian Townsend (Liaison and Assistant Director Public Works), Charles Jackman (Chair), Robert Trumbule (member), Xavier Courouble (guest).

Not present: Ethel Dutky (recorder)

Called to order 7:15 PM

The November 14, 2023, ACT Meeting minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

1 – Update on a second application period for the Tree Canopy Grant.

There are currently no plans by City staff to hold another application period for the Tree Canopy Grant. There is about \$27K left in the budget for this Grant, which could possibly be reallocated to another project for the City of Greenbelt.

2 – PEPCO work in the City of Greenbelt

PEPCO is finished pruning trees near power lines. PEPCO will be planting about 80 replacement trees for those that needed to be removed.

3 – Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS), held Jan. 10-12, 2024.

Bob Trumbule and Brian Townsend attended the MANTS at the Baltimore Convention Center this year. There were about 2500 booths for the MANTS exhibitors. Plants and tools were available for purchase at the event. Plus, there was much information provided which dealt with all types of plants (including trees).

New Business

1 – Buddy Attick Park Master Plan

Xavier Courouble (guest) presented some information and concerns about this Master Plan.

Information about some of the proposed work is given below:

- A) Removal of some branches of the White Mulberry tree (a Greenbelt Significant Tree) near the Main Entrance was suggested to provide more open views of Greenbelt Lake;
- B) Some of the wooded area near the Main Entrance would be cleared to provide space for more picnic tables;
- C) Some of the forested area on the north side of the trail near Greenbelt Lake would be cleared so some picnic tables could be moved from their Lakefront locations;
- D) Work on the Peninsula was suggested to enhance some planting areas;
- E) The Cove with the patch of trees in stagnant water would be restructured to provide some ecological restoration.

The proposed work is concerning since the existing older trees and vegetation will be impacted. This work would also possibly harm the current wetland environment.

This topic was discussed at the meeting for awhile. It was decided to postpone further discussion until the next ACT meeting, so that attendees could study the proposed Buddy Attick Park Master Plan in more detail.

2 – White Mulberry tree at Buddy Attick Park.

Brian Townsend noted that some nominal pruning will be done on the White Mulberry tree by a professional arborist.

3 – Shade Remediation Plan for Greenbelt Community Gardens.

Bob Trumbule noted that members of the Greenbelt Community Garden Club are concerned about the status of the Shade Remediation Plan approved by the City Council two years ago. This plan was also approved by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board. Bob noted that volunteers from the Club has started work on the Shade Remediation Plan and they were hoping that Public Works could also provide some assistance. After some discussion it was decided to postpone further dialog about this subject until the next ACT Meeting.

4 – Arbor Day Event for 2024 in Greenbelt.

The Arbor Day Event was briefly discussed. Tentatively, the Arbor Day Event will include the planting of 50-60 young trees (whips), which were given to the City by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last year. It appears that Saturday, April 13, might be a good day for the event. This will be further discussed at the next ACT Meeting

Adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Next ACT meeting – Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Jackman