

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – September 3, 2024**

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

Called to order - 7:15 PM

The August 13, 2024, ACT Meeting minutes were approved as written.

### **Old Business**

#### 1 – Advisory Boards/Committees Chairpersons Meeting

C. Jackman reported that he attended the City Council Work Session for Advisory Boards and Committees Chairpersons on Wednesday, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>. He noted a couple of highlights for ACT in the past year including: 1) The celebration of Arbor Day on Saturday, April 13, near the South Cove area of Buddy Attick Park where about 150 small native trees were planted; and 2) That ACT supports and implements measures to continue the high tree canopy (62%) coverage and the “Tree City USA” recognition for the City of Greenbelt through recommendations related to replacement trees and new plantings. He also mentioned that ACT was working on a report regarding the impact on trees from the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan.

Information about this meeting can be found at the City of Greenbelt’s website – see <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-council/minutes-agendas-videos-and-documents>

#### 2 – Buddy Attick Park Master Plan

The latest draft of the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan (BAPMP), dated May 17, 2024, was discussed in great detail and a Report to City Council about the BAPMP was generated. Highlights of the Report are given here:

ACT members are very concerned that a large number of trees will be removed to implement the plan. The ACT has the following primary concerns: 1) A list of trees that would be removed must be provided, if the plan, as presented, is implemented; 2) A numerical count and species list of replacement trees and shrubs to be removed needs to be provided to ensure an accurate record is available for purchase of new plant material; and 3) The existing food forest near the playground, which was planned and planted by ACT members and citizen volunteers, has been omitted from the BAPMP.

In addition to these primary concerns, there are other issues that ACT members and visitors attending the latest ACT meetings have regarding the plan (BAPMP): A) We recognize that there are native plant communities that could be negatively impacted, and we suggest minimizing disturbances, such as additional access points to the lake and the rerouting of trails; B) We also have concerns about the wholesale paving of paths and roadways; C) The steepness of several of the proposed paths will prevent American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility; and D) We are concerned about the planting of a pollinator meadow west of the dam that will need to be mowed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fire safety requirements.

### **New Business**

#### 1 – Loss of three large trees in past few weeks.

B. Townsend noted that: A) a large tree on Lakeside Drive was snapped in half by high winds; B) An oak tree by the Greenbelt museum had to be removed; and C) An oak tree on Gardenway was hit by a car after a police chase and probably will need to be removed.

#### 2 – Drought causing problems for many trees.

B. Townsend noted that Public Works personnel have had to spend quite a bit of time watering trees around the City of Greenbelt due to the ongoing drought.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next ACT meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted, Charles Jackman