

Advisory Committee on Trees – January 27, 2015

Call to order 7PM

present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Robert Trumbule (member), Brian Townsend (City liaison).

1 - Code of conduct for Advisory Board and Committee Members.

We reviewed and all members signed the new code of conduct document prepared by City Council for all City Advisory Board and Committee members. Brian took custody of the signed originals and will forward them to City Council. Brian made each ACT member a copy for our records.

2 – Report on MANTS field trip from Brian and Bob.

Both Bob and Brian report the the Mid Atlantic Nursery Trade Show in Baltimore was excellent. Brian found several vendors he may use . One vendor has a slightly less expensive source for “Eco Magnesium” (Magnesium chloride) ice melt. Another vendor provides the service of finding sources for specific tree stock. Bob picked up some catalogs from nurseries which provide trees in smaller (more affordable) sizes. Brian found a vendor for the 'Jefferson Elm' in 3 inch caliper for \$180 plus \$18.00 for shipping. He may be able to provide the same tree in a smaller size.

3 – City Council response to the ACT Report on Ice Melt Products.

Brian reported on Council's response to the Act Report on use of ice melt products in specific areas to prevent damage to trees and other landscape plants. Cost remains a major factor in selection from the available ice melting products. The CMA (Calcium Magnesium acetate) product which is much less toxic to plants is far too expensive for wide use in the city. Magnesium chloride is much more affordable (\$492/ton). Rock salt is the least expensive choice (\$67/ton). Public works is using the less toxic Magnesium chloride on sidewalks and in the Roosevelt Center parking area.

4 – Tree Work Report from Brian

Brian provided a document summarizing itemized tree work performed in the 2015 fiscal year period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The summary covered a wide range of activities that relate to the care of City trees.

Public Works is doing a lot of work along Cherrywood Lane to remove invasive tree species growing into the power lines. Many of these are Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) seedlings and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and other species. Unfortunately PEPCO is coming back to do more tree removals and trimming along 193 and in all of Greenbelt. The long term PEPCO plan is to return at 3 year intervals. This work will need to be reviewed and approved by Public Works. PEPCO will submit a detailed plan. ACT volunteered to meet with Public Works to review the PEPCO plan and to perhaps support objections to some proposed removals or suggest pruning as an option instead of removal. This will require field trips to view the trees on site.

5 - Event Schedule for Arbor Day

Brian reports that Arbor Day will be observed on March 28. There will be a tree planting at 10AM including installation of fencing to protect trees from the beavers; the Tree Tour from 1PM to 2:30 PM. All activities will be held at Buddy Attick Park. We discussed tree species to be planted and decided to include some of the Beaver food forest species.

We also discussed activities for Earth Day which will be observed on April 18. Both these events (Arbor Day and Earth Day) are good opportunities for kids to perform Community Service.

6 - PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) and the Sustainable Landscape Policy.

Brian and Richard Fink (the new Superintendent of Parks) went to the PRAB meeting. PRAB is re-writing the Master Plan for Buddy Attick Park. Issues of concern included the use of fertilizer and spot application of pesticide and control of invasive species. PRAB wants to have input into the Sustainable Land-care Policy. Richard Fink plans to re-write portions of the ACT Revision the Sustainable Land-care Policy. One objective of these revisions would be to make the document more understandable to lay people (citizens). ACT would like to extend an invitation to Mr. Fink to discuss the document. We would like to meet with Mr. Fink.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3 at 7PM at Public Works.

Adjourn 9:50 PM

submitted by Ethel Dutky