

Advisory Committee on Trees – April 15, 2014

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Brian Townsend (city liaison), Bob Trumbule, Alex Palmer (Volunteer Maryland Coordinator), Bill Phelan (guest)
Call to order 7PM

Reviewed and corrected March minutes, accepted with corrections.

Bill Phelan suggests an idea to consider for next year's Arbor Day

Create a rain garden in the area next to the Coop Supermarket entrance. The site has two flowering cherry trees in decline/dying due to the excess water. This area gets a lot of water from the Coop roof. This would be a big job which will require installation of drains. It would be an excellent place to show the benefit of a working rain garden. Brian will look into this project.

City Council Presentation of the Arbor Day Proclamation

Brian, Charles and Ethel attended the Council meeting on April 7 to accept the proclamation. Kim Walsh was present to accept the Earth Day Proclamation. Charles described the ACT sponsored Arbor Day planting to be held in Buddy Attick Park on April 26. We discussed sending invitations to youth groups (scouts, Campfire, etc.) to participate in the planting. Alex and Brian will coordinate rounding up volunteers. Mayor pro-tem J. Davis asked about the tree tour, but we explained that we were not doing a tree tour on Arbor Day, but hope to do one in the fall.

Planting Site for Arbor Day

We had planned to walk the site at the start of this meeting, but decided not to do so because of the rain and windy weather. The planting will be done along the lake shoreline across from the peninsula on the south shore line. The newly planted trees and shrubs will be protected for a year with fencing and cages. As the plants become established, the fencing and cages will be removed. We had a wide ranging discussion of plants to include. Alex suggested some big leaf magnolia, a large native tree; and a cucumber magnolia, another large native tree. Red-twig dogwood was mentioned for shoreline areas.

Status of the Sustainable Landscape Policy

We discussed the process for review and adoption of this document so it becomes City Policy. Charles will write a memo on the status of this document and send it to the City Council and the City Manager.

Hole in path near bridge going into Schrom Hills Park.

Charles brought some pictures of a hole developing on the path near the bridge. Brian will attend to it.

Brian Announced two new Publications

- 1) Public Works purchased a publication on Salt used for ice melt "Let's Stop Salt Damage" from the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- 2) "Green Infrastructure 2013 Mapping Workshop". An aid to planning community development with less damage to wildlife. This was sponsored by the BWPFs (Baltimore Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship). Greenbelt is a member. Green Infrastructure consists of mapping ecosystems showing wildlife corridors and hubs.

Arbor Day Planting Event

We will meet at Public Works at 9:30 on Saturday, April 26. Planting will begin at 10 AM.

Next Meeting May 6 at 7PM at Public Works.

Adjourn at 9PM.

submitted by Ethel Dutky