

## Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

### Minutes

April 17, 2012

Prepared by: Ginny Barnes

#### ATTENDEES

##### Members

Ginny Barnes  
Ken Ferebee  
Kim Knox  
Dan Landry  
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio  
Caren Madsen  
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio  
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio  
Michael Norton  
Jeff Schwartz  
Doug Sievers  
Linda Silversmith  
Kevin Smith  
Dan Snyder

##### Absent members

Mark Buscaino  
Andrew Der  
David Kuykendall (DPS), ex officio  
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio  
Clark Wagner

##### Others attending

Bob Benson  
Stan Edwards, MC DEP  
Bruce Goldensohn, Co-Chair, MC CERB  
Dale Tibbitts, Council Staff

#### MINUTES

Meeting called to Order @ 7:05 PM.

Minutes from March 2012 meeting circulated.

1) Request from WQAC for a subcommittee to meet with them - this will likely be done via teleconference - subject: how WQAC and FCAC can work together to provide guidance to MC Executive and Council on forestry policies that will improve water quality. Volunteers for subcommittee are Laura Miller, Kim Knox, G. Barnes and Linda Silversmith. Update on teleconference @ June meeting.

2) Request for review of Anacostia Advisory Committee proposal to upgrade forest around Anacostia watershed. Contact person: Chair Mike Smith. Kim to reach out to him.

3) Discussion of list of component assignments for FCAC response to Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB). Report due on or before May 6, 2012.

- A description of the work FCAC does.
- Justification of why FCAC should continue.

- List of accomplishments over the last 2 years
- Statistical review of the committee's work
- A list of deliverables each member would like to see the FCAC accomplish.

The committee had a lengthy discussion on each of these topics in turn and arrived at a general agreement of what will be included in the final report. Kim will assemble and circulate via email for edits and corrections. A vote on the final content will occur prior to the May 6 deadline.

4) Forestry and Roadside tree budget. - a discussion of operating budget, maintenance backlog, etc. Brett provided background challenges to the program.

- Stump grinding of trees removed has been suspended for the last 2 years and Pepco does not grind stumps from their reliability based tree removal. The backlog is now a significant impediment to replanting.
- Approx. 5,500 are known to exist, not counting the 1500 Pepco has created over last few months.

Roadside tree program - (continued)

Maintenance backlog as of March 2012 : **1,193** trees in line for removal, **2,306** trees for pruning (includes only trees residents have called in as hazards and DOT has verified). **5,389** Stumps and **2,536** planting requests.

What will it take to become current? \$7 to 8 million just to take care of the backlog. Doing routine cyclical maintenance leads to healthier trees. Ginny will work with Brett to see if a letter on the budget can be generated in time to impact Council budget decisions.

Note: In accounting procedures, the County does not recognize trees as an asset. This should be added to our FCAC list of deliverables.

5) May 15<sup>th</sup> Champion tree and reforestation tour starting @ 3 PM. There is no May meeting. Next scheduled meeting is June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted.