

## Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

### Minutes

June 19, 2012

Prepared by: Dan Snyder

#### ATTENDEES

##### Members

Ginny Barnes  
Bob Benson  
Mark Buscaino  
Andrew Der  
Ken Ferebee  
Kim Knox  
David Kuykendall (DPS), ex officio  
Dan Landry  
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio  
Caren Madsen  
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio  
David Myers  
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio  
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio

Jeff Schwartz  
Jason Sheer  
Doug Sievers  
Linda Silversmith  
Kevin Smith  
Dan Snyder  
Clark Wagner

##### Absent members

Michael Norton

##### Others attending

Dale Tibbitts, Council Staff  
Charles Washington, Pepco  
Mr. Gladwell, Washington Gas

#### MINUTES

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm
- II. Committee reviewed and approved the April 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes
- III. First Item of New Business was to Review the July Meeting Agenda
  - A Subcommittee was formed to develop questions for Joe Beach regarding the potential for Montgomery County to classify street trees as an asset within the County's accounting system.
  - Brett Linkletter explained that if street trees were classified as an asset their maintenance/replacement budget could be funded through the issuance of bonds versus funding through general fund operating budget. The stipulations regarding the sale of bonds and the restriction of use placed on the bond proceeds make it more difficult to cut these budget items than items in the general operating budget.
- IV. Committee discussed various methods to generate public awareness of the value of trees

V. Committee discussed possible agendas for the September meeting which included the Street Tree Mortality Program and the I Tree Program for the October Meeting.

VI. Utility Tree Legislation Update, Mr. Dale Tibbitts, Senior Aide to Council Member Marc Elrich

- Mr Tibbitts discussed the various provisions of the original Utility Tree Bill and the associated public hearing
- The Committee discussed the Bill and the associated fees and funding mechanisms

VII. Pepco Representative Charles Washington made a presentation regarding the impact of the proposed Utility Tree Bill on the utility.

- Mr. Washington conveyed that the proposed legislation would represent a significant financial burden on the Utility. One of the primary costs related to the legislation is the stump grinding requirement for all trees removed.
- The Committee interacted with Mr. Washington on his presentation. The majority of the discussion centered on the stump grinding provision and the environmental value it provides regarding replanting, regeneration etc.