

Minutes of the Takoma Park Tree Commission

Dec 8, 2015

By Colleen Cordes

Location: Rose Room, Takoma Park City Building

Present: Carol Hotton, Chair

Gresham Lowe

Colleen Cordes

Guests: Ashley Files Flory, leader of Girls Scout Troop #1456, attended, responding to the Tree Commission's invitation. Tina Murray, who has applied for the opening on the Tree Commission, attended. Ian Barclay, Takoma Park resident, also attended.

Working with Youth Groups to Expand, Protect Tree Canopy: Conversation with Ashley. She said her troop is composed of seven girls in grades 7, 8, and 9, and from about 13 to 15 years old. She added that Jo Hoagie also leads a group of about a dozen Girl Scouts who are in grades 6 and 7. Both groups would be likely to get involved in one-time efforts to help plant trees – including possibly helping younger Cub Scouts – and also would be interested in identifying more extensive personal projects, such as civic research projects related to trees, that would benefit trees in the City. Denny suggested a project to identify the 10 oldest or biggest trees in the City and Ashley said such a project would appeal to the members of her troop. Carol noted that the City's champion oak had been identified some years ago. One student is also interested in a project dealing with pollinators. Discussion also about working with local Boy Scouts, led by Scout Master Tim Miller, boys who are in middle school and high school. Bobby Lanar, son of former Scout Master, is also still active with Boy Scouts and could be contacted. Ashley and TC members agreed it would be great to find a way to offer service opportunities to Girl Scouts in helping to plan and run the planned Tree Festival in the fall. **Action Item: Ashley** will discuss possibilities over with her troop and **Denny** and she will continue to be in contact with each other.

Source for Tree Saplings for Cub Scouts to Plant: Dan Seligman is looking for source of tree saplings for his idea of organizing a group of Cub Scouts to help plant trees for interested residents. Colleen asked about source for hickory trees, which are reportedly difficult to transplant. **Action Items: Gresham** will send us a list of nurseries and growers that are good sources for native trees, including ones less frequently planted. **Gresham**, while attending annual nursery trade show, will ask if any are able to provide young trees free for a Cub Scouts effort. **Denny** will see if Casey Trees will donate trees. **Gresham** will also check directly with Olney Wholesalers. **Colleen** will check with Adkins Arboretum.

Continued Discussion of Short Tree Tips video on City's Cable Television station. Commissioners agreed to hold off on this idea for the present. Agreed we should review what's now posted on the City's revised website about trees.

Action Item: Denny will review the videos that Casey Trees has posted.

Natural Takoma feature in Newsletter: Agreed to try to schedule a conference call with Apryl Motley, Newsletter Editor.

Action Item: All who can take part in a conference call, on the City conference line, at 9 a.m. Dec. 16th, to further discuss this possibility.

Tree Canopy Mapping: Kathleen Nelson is available to meet with us in the Montgomery County Planning Office about mapping City's tree canopy for 2009 and 2013 on Friday, Dec. 11th, at 9 am. **Action Item: All** who can attend.

Tree Fest Planning for the Fall: Discussion. Agreed to tentatively plan for Saturday, Oct. 15th. **Action Item: Denny** will ask Doug Tallamy to pencil in that date, and the TC will begin researching fundraising for the event. He charges a fee of \$1,500 plus his transportation charges (drives from Newark, NJ.) **Action Item: Colleen** will call Howard Kohn or Franca Brilliant to try to find out deadline to apply for a Takoma Foundation grant. **Denny** will research if Town Creek Foundation might be interested. **Carol** will alert Fred Schultz about the idea of a fall Tree Fest and ask his suggestions.

Consulting with Todd on Current Issues: Action Item: Carol will contact Todd about a source of free trees for Cub Scouts, and also ask about the list of trees he plans to order for the next Arbor Day. She will also compile a list of tree species he's ordered for the last five Arbor Days.