



Meeting held in person at Forestry Division's conference room, Druid Hill Pk, and virtually.

Note: Names in bold typeface were those who attended in person.

Members: **Fred Chalfant, Amanda Cunningham, Zoe Gensheimer, Anne Gilbert, Matt Rescott, Jill Jonnes, Sarah Lord, Sylvester Myers**

Guests: **Gabriela Amaya-Williams**, Megan Carr (Weed Warrior Program), **Dan Coy (Chief of Forestry)**, Chris Forster-Smith, Loretha Myers, **Sam Seo (TreeBaltimore Mgr), James Wolf, Thayer Young**

- **Welcome**

- Amanda chairs, substituting for Erik who is traveling and not able to connect in via internet.
- Zoe reports that Youth Members have not been responsive to emails. Sam reports he has connected with Anika Stikeleather and is to have coffee with her soon. Email he had for Sarai Sax did not work.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Amanda reports two expenditures in February. \$265 for printing 200 trifold brochures advertising the 2023 NRCC camp. All are urged to take some with them tonight and distribute widely. \$100 mailed today to MD Forestry Board as donation for MD Big Tree Program. (This was voted in during January meeting). No deposits to report for Feb. Current balance \$6,585.74.

- **Working Groups' Updates**

- Engagement - Fred reports on Annual FB Pruning Party in Ednor Gardens. Estimated 30 street trees pruned by volunteers, mostly TreeKeepers. This event was the first re-certification event for TKs and Fred hopes to set up two such events a year. He is looking for help with social media posting, volunteer mgmt, and registration checkin.
- Advocacy
 - Tree Ordinance Committee
 - Matt reports that Forestry's Public Property Tree Bill will move forward, legislatively, this year. With the help of City Finance, a protected place for mitigation funds was identified. Namely, via the Office of Sustainability whose charter allows for multiple funds to be created and be administered by other city agencies. Currently, collected fee in lieu funds (\$220 per cal. inch) is held in the general fund.
 - On the state level, there are new *Proposed* updates to FCA, that will allow for other uses for FCA mitigation fee-in-lieu when there is no space to plant more trees.
 - forest conservation legislation - https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2023RS/bills/sb/sb0526F.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1mQnX2i15DrwtwusoO8UtRaqVB1Ec2WCTX5xIIC1qno6bY_xRpgR1cuRo
 - Katie reports on progress with Private Property Tree Bill. Drafted. Dan has been helpful working with Katie to address details. TO Committee will review final draft. Bill not likely to be introduced until new 'class' of council persons are





voted in. Meanwhile, develop strategy for a PR campaign. Pro bono attorney will research other cities for an education/ outreach model. FB and other tree people can help with testimony when bill is introduced and with finding examples of heritage tree loss on private property. Katie will set up file for all to dump photos, articles, to use as examples. Chris offers to help.

- Notre Dame tree removals letter [Zoe]
 - NDU is trying to move easements to build an assisted living facility on their property. Impacts 26, 100+yo oaks and a cemetery. MOU btw Homeland nabe & NDU is very likely to be signed, so it is moving forward. Zoe had drafted a letter, attended NDU community mtgs but reports that some deal was worked out btw NDU and Homeland. Possible stronger mitigation requirements for stormwater in the MOU. Moving easement to wooded area near library. More heavily forested, but much younger trees.
- Meet w. Administration - *Erik will schedule for March/April upon his return.*
- **Seasonal Program Updates**
 - TreeBaltimore [Sam] <https://www.treebaltimore.org/treeevents>
 - Sam reports Spring trees to be delivered soon. Site One stopped shipment on rest of Fall order due to a procurement issue. In progress to fix. Partners have a buffer of trees to allow for plantings to at least begin on time. Street tree plgtg contract gearing up. For 1500 trees (vs only 300 last Fall). Tree pit creation and expansion contract is w/procurement and then will be out to bid.
 - Winter Gathering re-start after 3 years without, ‘blew the roof off’ the Volume Ctr. Good time, 270+ people signed up, 300+ in attendance. More community leaders, TreeKeepers and Weed Warriors certified. Kudos to Ted for getting the word out to a community people. Good promotion/outreach ahead of time. Parking issue to be addressed better next year. Shoutout given to Christine Nutile at Vollmer who, with her staff, took charge of the traffic issues outside of the facility.
 - Big Tree Program [Fred]
 - Presentation at Winter Gathering featured an award for Best Performance of a Big Tree. Voting before event narrowed 68 candidates measured since pandemic to top 5. Winner was Osage Orange located in the MD Zoo. Lots of votes for the Nearly all 68 trees received at least one vote.
 - Talks in progress of re-doing/updating the Tree Bus Tour. Westside this time to include trees at GFLP, New Cathedral Cemetery, Mt St Joe, and Wilbur Waters Pk.
 - Big Tree measurements to start up again, soon.
 - NRCC [Matt]
 - Would like applicants in the next 2 months, ideally in March. Matt reached out to Joanna Pi-Sunyer, BCPS’ green school coordinator who included it in the most recent newsletter. Pamphlets in person - suggested to leave at local coffee shops, etc. Dan will send out to include in BCRP’s community engagement team newsletter. Idea to send out to contact





lists used to get so many people to the Winter a Gathering. Pamphlets were on every table at the Gathering as well. All at meeting encouraged to take them and distribute.

- Zoe reports that her efforts to contact Youth Members this year have been unsuccessful. Sam has had luck hearing back from Anika and will try to set up a coffee meeting her and others welcome to join. Have attended no meetings.

● **Upcoming Events**

- Arbor Day/ Earth Day Events: Apr 27 and 28 - sign-up / volunteers
 - 4/27 Wyman Park, with Hampden students is being led by James Wolf. Has secured a Park & Play grant from BCRP. Has planned a full slate of kids activities including planting an oak tree. See FB as appropriate partners and hopes members attend. Anne G will attend and offers trees via MD Tremendous, delivered. Amanda will connect James with Anne. With tree planting. Forestry can provide mulch. A sign up sheet will be forwarded to all Fbers for volunteering on tabling shifts.
 - 4/28 Baltimore City Arbor Day event at Moores Run Pk in Frankford Estates w/in HR Wtrshd. Maybe city officials attending. 10 trees are to be planted. Inviting Moravia Park EMS 5th grades to assist. Anne G offers to attend, as well.
- Market Day, May 13th, 8:00am -2:00pm, Cylburn.
 - Amanda is proposing new display materials to assist with a lightweight portable tabling set up for events.
 - **Ideas WANTED for creative solutions for all weather.**
- *Anne Hairston-Strang and Association President, Joli McCathern to visit us at our March meeting (!!)* Mar 28, 2023

● **Noteworthy:**

- *Reminder:* Ethics form submittal, due end of April
- New Baltimore “City Tree?” [*Suggestions due*] replacement for the Callery pear that is current.
- National Aquarium Henry Hall Fellows [*Dan*]
 - Dan presented to 10 high school (rockstars). Will send them info on NRCC. Next Friday group will tour Camp Small. Previous NRCC camper, London Fuller came was in this program.
- FB meeting time, frequency and location(s) - all okay with, but tech needs sorting out for all those who wish to attend virtually
- Park Advisory Board [*Erik will bring up with Administration*]
- State Forestry Board Meeting, next Thursday, March 9th in Annapolis. RSVP for lunch.
- Baltimore County FB seminar, all day Saturday event at Oregon Ridge - 25 spots left. Amanda to email out info.
- March 15th, 7 .p.m. at Cylburn showing, “ForestHer” documentary. Panel of Forest Stewards as part of program/ discussion.

● **Other Agenda Items:** [*Open Discussion*]





BALTIMORE CITY FORESTRY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

5:30-6:30 pm

- Jill bemoans long wait for introduction of bill to protect Gwynns Falls Leakin Park as an Old Growth Forest. Bill sent by Dist. 8 Councilperson Kristerfer Burnett to city legal in September 2022. Advised that Burnett needs to champion. Also timing of bill hearings may be a factor. It is not unheard of for a bill to take this long.
- Adjourn: 6:45pm
- Next meeting, Tuesday, March 28th, 5:30 p.m., Forestry and virtual.

ag&ahc/ 3/3/23

