



**Location:** Baltimore City Forestry Office and Virtual Hybrid Meeting

**Members:** Matt Rescott, Erik Dihle, Amanda Cunningham, Anne Gilbert

**Guests:** Cara Dudzic (MFS), Ashley Triplett, Mike Scerlock, Gabriella Williams (BTT), Sam Seo

Start Time: 5:38 pm

- Welcome / Introductions [Erik/All]
  - Mike - Interested in the board's work. He is a retired physician with decades of native landscaping background, the Mount Washington neighborhood, started 1-acre arboretum along Western Run.
  - Ashley - forest resilience. Currently with Rock Creek Conservancy. Wildlife biologist by training and in training as an urban forester. She lives in Baltimore City and wants to get more involved with the board.
- Treasurer's Report Proposed Purchases [Amanda]
  - Balance: \$6,515.74
  - Raised at spring events a \$450.00 cash deposit.
  - June \$70 in donations via MD Forestry Foundation. Resulted from Fred's phone app for those taking the tree tour at Cylburn's Market Day.
  - Proposed purchases: Thayer is working on proposals for new display boards.
    - Table purchase no longer needed - Sandy Sparks' table donation and multiple ones available for use through Tree Baltimore.
    - Amanda proposed waiting for Thayer to analyze all tabling updates and needed and present options
    - Erik emphasized the need for a professional look.
  - Fundraising - Matt spoke with Chris Spilleck of Spinella, a pipeline company that contracts with City DPW. Chris lives in the City and wants more trees, so Matt asked for corporate donations to support NRCC. Threw the amount of \$1,200 at Chris who didn't flinch! Matt wants the board to bless his pursuit. Erik will notify board by email.
- Working Groups Update
  - Engagement
    - Herb Fest After Action - [Email comments from Sarah]
      - Interested in having more Pawpaw and Sweetbay Magnolia since they were the most popular at the giveaway. Nearly all the trees were given away.
  - Youth
    - NRCC [Matt & Sandy]
      - Camp at capacity. No applicants from City. Jaleel Nash with City Forestry has a son who's a High School freshman that is interested in attending next year.
    - Anika & Sarai [Sam]

- Said that they would come to a meeting, but still have not. Will reach out to them again.
- Advocacy
  - Tree Ordinance Committee [Matt]
    - Meeting two weeks ago. Sam attended. The most concrete outcome was that a smaller group would convene to help design what a tree commission would look like.
    - Public tree bill - Legislative reference to have the final draft to Matt tomorrow.
- Seasonal Updates
  - DNR / State Forestry News [Anne]
    - NEW Associate Director of Policy and External Programs of MFS - Justin Bowers
      - MFS will not be coming in heavy-handed. Looking forward to improving partnerships and amplifying the good work already being done across the city.
    - The final five vacant 5MT positions will be posted soon. One will be based in Baltimore and two will have flexible locations.
    - As National Inflation Reduction Act (USFS IRA UCF) funding RFPs are developed information will be distributed as appropriate.
  - Urban Forestry Division [Staff]
    - Nursery improvements are planned for this summer. Capital to meet to look at refurbishing the road, and installing nursery hardware. Two crews daily doing proactive pruning City-wide.
    - Workforce development was in progress last week and this week. Specialized training (Tree Keeper hybrid) and work projects completed. Partnership with USFS and local nonprofits. Nancy Sonti and Max are the USFS leads.
  - Tree Baltimore [Sam]
    - The tail end of getting fall orders - number update next meeting. Trying to get orders in earlier and hopefully get specific species that are hard to procure.
  - Notable Trees Update [Amanda]
    - Baltimore County FB member Linda Barker reported the loss of champion Silver Linden on Towson University property was lost in the storm last night.
    - Matt reports a developer of the adjacent property wants to rezone and buy parcels where the tree stands. Marla O'Neil, the original nominator is worried about tree damage. Part of the parcel is I-83 ROW (Federal land). If it goes through the federal process then the City would likely favor the rezone. Community groups opposed it and want to leave it as green space. Amanda will check w/Marla to draft an opposition letter to rezoning/sale, if prudent.

- Additional Items and Comments
  - Camp Small visit was a huge success last month!
  - Future Meeting Sites [All]
    - Carrie Murray Nature Center
    - Mount Washington Arboretum Pavillion (Mike) - Fall
  - Meet in July / August [All]
    - Simple outdoor gathering in July. Location: Under the mighty poplar on the lawn of the zoo mansion in Druid Hill Park.
    - Usually no August meeting
  - FB Picnic and/or TreeBaltimore Summer Gathering? [All]
    - TB Summer Gathering tentative date: 8/23
- Roundtable [All]
  - Recurring, rotating tree tour idea discussed.

Adjourn: 6:48 pm