

## Montgomery County Forest Conservancy District Board



### Minutes for the Montgomery County Forestry Board Meeting – 14 November, 2023

Chairman Jim Harris called this meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Joli McCathran noted that she used funds from the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC) Grants Program to write checks to the City of Takoma Park and the Stuart Armstrong Arboretum. A sum of \$9,875.00 was deposited to the boards account. Using these funds, a sum of \$4,875.00 was issued to the City of Takoma Park for street-tree planting, and \$5,000.00 was issued to the Stuart Armstrong Arboretum. The current unrestricted account balance is \$3,650.52, and the restricted account (Greydon Tolson Fund) balance is \$1,850.00, yielding a combined account balance of \$5,500.52 (zero net change from 10 October, 2023). Payment for the tree tour led by Joe Howard, Carole Bergmann, and Joli McCathran at Montgomery County's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Urban Tree Summit remains to be deposited into the board's account.

#### Chair's Report

Prior to the Chair's Report, board members introduced themselves to guest attendees Dylan Orr, Tree Planting Specialist with Maryland DNR Forest Service, and Paula Perez, City Forester with the City of Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department. Chairman Jim Harris noted that Dominic Quattrocchi was attending a close-out on a purchase of 1,000 acres of forested land by Prince George's County. Jim mentioned an email from Dawn Balinski that outlined the funds that the board received at the end of October (see Treasurer's Report for details).

#### Legislative Report

Laura Miller commented that the bill pertaining to increase the mitigation fees for the Roadside Tree and Tree Canopy Laws has been introduced, and a hearing will occur on 28 November, 2023. The fee-in-lieu corresponding to the Roadside Tree Law is proposed to increase from \$250 per tree to \$450 per tree, and the fee-in-lieu corresponding the Tree Canopy Law is proposed to increase from \$250 per tree to \$470 per tree.

#### DNR Report

James Eierdam, Project Forester with the Maryland DNR Forest Service advised that those board members interested in ordering tree seedlings from the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery should place their orders prior to December 2023 due to demand for seedlings.

#### New Business

Joli McCathran noted that the board needed to vote on a new logo for Maryland's Big Tree Program; each voting board member receives one vote for the best logo. The vote later took place, Joli also noted that The Foundation is coordinating a tree summit in May 2024 in Annapolis, and is requesting 100% participation from each county board.

Lee Derby commented on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration of the Montgomery County Public School's Outdoor Education Program, and thanked Joe Howard and Joli McCathran for their displays. Lee later gifted quality ballpoint pens to each board member. Lee finally

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commented that he wishes to inventory all trees on the Lathrop E. Smith Center's grounds including a species list and GPS location.

Paula Perez commented on issues pertaining to funding street-tree pruning in the City of Rockville. Eddie Franceschi bemoaned the fact that the water level at the Triadelphia Reservoir is 35 feet below average due to drought conditions, and the level continues to drop by about a tenth of a foot per day. Dan Landry expressed his curiosity about MDOT's Urban Forestry Camp, and new legislation pertaining to leaf-blowers. Vince Fillah noted that he will spend time measuring trees in the near future. Natasha Shangold mentioned that she has been continuing compliance inspections for easements, warranties, etc. within the City of Rockville.

Laura Miller noted that the State's 5 Million Trees (5MT) program received funding through the Chesapeake Bay Trust to plant trees at schools throughout Montgomery County. The next tree planting is tentatively scheduled for 30 November, 2023 at the S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary School located at 12500 Wisteria Drive in Germantown, MD 20874.

Joe Howard noted that he enrolled 37 people to participate in a big tree tour with Conservation Montgomery, a non-profit organization aimed to conserve Montgomery County's natural resources and quality of life. Joe then asked the board to vote on the inscription for Linda Pepe's plaque. The board then deliberated and suggested edits for the inscription at length prior to forestalling voting until January 2024.

Dylan Orr talked about his job responsibilities as a Tree Planting Specialist with the Maryland DNR Forest Service. He outlined the basics of 5MT, and then held an impromptu Q&A session pertaining to the program.

Chairman Jim Harris finally adjourned this meeting at 3:21 PM.

### Attendance:

Jim Harris, Board Chair  
Vince Fillah, Board Member  
Carole Bergmann, Board Member  
Lee Derby, Board Member  
Joli McCathran, Board Member  
Laura Miller, Board Member  
Joe Howard, Board Member  
Dan Landry, Board Member  
Eddie Franceschi, Board Member  
Norman King III, Board Member  
Christopher Barger, Board Secretary  
James Eierdam, Guest  
Paula Perez, Guest  
Dylan Orr, Guest  
Natasha Shangold, Guest