

CCV Arbor Committee
Minutes 11/16/09
At 4020 Everett Street

The meeting convened at 7:45 pm. Rachel Ritvo, Chair, Jule Crider, Steve Fox and Marty White were present.

Absent: Marcia Keppel, Celeste Park, Jack White and Bonny Cochran.

No minutes were made for the 5/27/09 and 9/09/09 meetings in which committee members met on Summit Ave. and walked through the neighborhood from Cleveland through Everett comparing what was observed "on the ground" with the information on the CPJ database.

News item: The committee received from Molly Hauck an article in The Gazette, October 28, 2009 "Chevy Chase project to restore native trees" describing a town/county supported reforestation plan in the town of Chevy Chase. It is clear that other towns in our vicinity have active tree programs. Our focus is to continue to support a robust Right of Way tree program for CCV while gradually increasing the public knowledge regarding the value of large, native trees to the neighborhood.

CCV Picnic:

Rachel reported that she and Marcia staffed the display at the town picnic. The rain made it tricky. The toter survey was at the same table which drew attention. Citizens were interested. Some still expressed concern for private trees removed for construction. Proper mulching fliers were distributed. Our conclusion is that the picnic is a useful outreach opportunity and that we should have a table again next year.

Database: Jule reported that she has her planting data ready to give to Jana for entry in the database as soon as she makes a backup copy. Rachel will check with Phil and Jana that his information is in also. With the initial data entry in the CPJ database completed it is time for reports. The committee is eager to see what this elegant database can do!

The committee brainstormed regarding types of reports that might be useful. It was felt that council and Phil might already have plans for reports but that the committee should have some ideas ready as well. We discussed two types of reports: cataloguing and activity reports. The cataloguing would document the total number of trees, species and cultivars and some gauge of size/age distribution. Such a report would allow us to answer questions regarding the diversity of the plantings, the age of the trees and the overall census of trees. It was not clear how often such a cataloguing would be needed? Yearly? Every other year? Every five years? Activity reports would probably be semi-annual recording the removals and the plantings to allow identification of trends and allow for planning and budgeting.

The committee members expressed a desire to have annual copies of the full printout of the database and the maps. This would allow us to share with neighbors the identification of their trees and continue to familiarize ourselves with the planting plan. Committee members will try

to maintain a “Deferred Vacancies” list in order that trees may be planted when ownership changes if current owner has declined an appropriate tree.

Action item: Rachel will contact Jana and Lulu before Wednesday’s council meeting to suggest a discussion of database reports and to find out what plans may already be underway for reports.

County and State ROW: Steve Fox raised concern that residents on Connecticut Ave., Cedar Lane and Saul Road do not have ROW planted by the town. How do residents on these streets get trees planted if there are vacancies? Rachel had been in contact with Arlene Bruhn in the Battery Lane area of Bethesda who has worked with Montgomery County to manage ROW trees in her neighborhood.

Action Item: Rachel will forward Arlene’s contact information to Steve and he will do research on how to advise residents who live on county and state roads.

Maintenance: As the Master Plan project is largely completed and the database is well underway, Jule asked that the committee begin to give consideration to maintenance issues. Rachel’s understanding is that Tom Laws has a contract or agreement with the town to provide all maintenance. The committee could review with the council member and town manager what is in that agreement. Jule recommended that the committee first do research and educate ourselves regarding maintenance procedures and needs. For instance do towns fertilize their trees. Jule suggested we interview tree committees in neighboring towns regarding their practices. What questions would we ask?

Action item: Committee members will circulate questions by email to develop a questionnaire. At the next meeting we will review the questionnaire and choose towns to contact.

Public Education: Marcia was not able to attend but had expressed interest in the county champion tree program. This is similar to the “Noble Trees” of Arlington, VA that was reported in the Washington Post, Oct. 17, 2009. There was some interest from CCV residents when Rachel floated this idea on the town email list. Perhaps an Arbor Day event could be planned.

The website is an excellent outreach vehicle as well as the possibility of a more extensive description of our trees in the blue book. Once we have a report from the database giving a list of all our cultivars the committee can get information on each cultivar to post on the web site. Perhaps there can be a section in the bluebook on the ROW Tree program and directing residents to the web site.

Action item: Rachel will discuss with Marcia a possible Arbor Day event.

Maples on north side of 4200 block of Everett. Marty White raised her concern that a dogwood was planted in her yard where there had always been a maple. She and her husband very much want the traditional maple. She wondered if the dogwood could be moved. Rachel remarked that Peter Roman had considered moving the dogwoods but that it was not clear if they could go on Saul Road (a county road) which is where Phil recommended putting them. The matter

had been postponed and then dropped when Peter stepped down. Marty was encouraged to pursue this issue with council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 15th . May 27 at 7:45 pm at 4020 Everett Street.