

Parks and Watersheds Committee
Agenda—December 14, 2021
7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

Attendees: Kelly Collins Choi (Casey Trees), Erica Westerberg (Chair), Spenser Balog (Casey Trees), David Cristeal (ANC Chair), Barbara Bates, Marjorie Share, Alex Sanders, David Bardin, Lois Forster, Grace Hsu, Gil, Jeanne Braha (RCC), Cory Levine

1. Guest Speaker: Kelly Collins Choi, Director, Policy & Land Conservation, Casey Trees (30 minutes)

- Casey Trees is a Certified Land Trust
- Conservation Easement program – hold development restrictions (not ownership of the land). Casey Trees can restrict the impervious surfaces on a property.
- Five Conservation Easements around the City
- Impervious Surface Limits (< 5% land area); no dumping; no introduction of invasive species, no residential/commercial/industrial uses; maintenance responsibility resides with landowner, Casey Trees monitors yearly and plants trees as needed.
- Expanding Conservation Priorities (Steep slopes, wetlands, adjacent to parkland/streams/restoration sites. Looking for more than 0.5 acre sites.
- Cannot put easements on federal land/areas already regulated by NPS.
- <https://caseytrees.org/conservation-easement-nominations/>
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- 19 total Ward Arborists, Evan Anderson, Michael Chuko and Daniel Just are Ward 3's
- Federal Tax Incentives may be offered, no DC tax incentives (there are some in MD and VA)
- Upcoming Legislation – Urban Forestry Preservation Authority Amendment Act of 2021 – would give UFD stop work order authority to immediately halt an activity that puts a special or heritage tree at risk. First hearing is January 7th. Want to firm up the definition of Critical Root Zone and prevent the removal of non-hazardous heritage trees.
- Please speak up in favor of the upcoming legislation (in person or in writing) on January 7th

2. Follow up on meeting with DC water, December 7, 2021: potential resolution on cured in place pipes (CIPP) methods (30 minutes)

- Questions from the meeting – awaiting answers from DC Water
- No meeting of ANC until January
- Re: Pipe Issues FOIA requests outstanding (to see contract and background analysis to EA (Steam vs. UV))
- Lois Forster - NPS delegated the processes for evaluation to DC Water. Then DC Water hires a contractor and asks them to justify everything
 - Propose questions to DC Water to elaborate on EA items that weren't sufficient.
 - Marjorie: EA was written and posted and there was a public comment period with 100s of comments plus the ANC request – nothing was responded to and the NPS still approved it.
 - Lois: Ask for mitigation attempts that could be done without too much effort. DC Wants the manholes to be two feet above the base flood plain elevation.
 - Barbara Bates: DC Water contacted Van Ness North to have a meeting Thursday night. The health issues should be addressed.

- David C: If we don't think the mitigation is sufficient we should ask for more from DC Water.
- If DC Water goes forward with the CIPP without UV, what mitigation efforts can we request of DC Water? Can the Professor that Marjorie Share brought up make suggestions. He wrote a report for six states that includes mitigation measures for if a community chooses the CIPP with Steam instead of UV.
- Next Steps:
 - Lois is drafting questions on Manhole Issue
 - Others can draft questions on CIPP Issue by January
 - Waiting for FOIA request

3. Updates on focus areas (25 minutes):

A. Soapstone Valley--Lois Forster, Judy Buelow

B. Hearst--Cory Levine

- French Drains installed around the heritage trees seems to be working
- New Bio Retention Area in place next to the tennis courts
- Drains around field appear sufficient
- New drain above the Idaho Ave Right of Way and new gravel pavement.

C. Linnean and Broad Branch Daylighted Streams—volunteer needed

D. Melvin Hazen --Cory Levine

- MLK JR Weekend of Service – Jeanne to add other dates for invasive removal
- Hopeful we will hear some news on the name issue in 2022.

E. Connecticut Avenue Streetscape Project-Barbara Bates

- Quick updates.

F. (Stormwater and Water Quality Management Advocacy-Judy Buelow)

- Judy unable to attend tonight.

4. Other business (5 minutes)