



Members Present: Zoe Gensheimer (Chair), Fred Chalfant, Anne Gilbert, Amanda Cunningham, Sean O'Maille, Sylvester Myers, Matt Rescott, Katie Lauter, Rob Black, Sarah Lord, Sandy Sparks

Youth Member: Nayev Pumphrey,

Guests: Chris Forester-Smith, Phyllis Fung, Lee Truelove, Dan Coy (new Baltimore City Chief of Forestry),

Start Time: 5:00

- **Welcome** - 5 min
 - Introductions: Share your name, role and/or skills and interests
 - Fred is the new Central Region Representative for the Forestry Board Association Executive Committee
- **Treasurer's Report** - 5 min (Amanda)
 - Grant check received for James Wolf's Wyman Park Arbor Day planting - \$989. New MUCFC grant partnership with MDOT.
 - \$200 donation from Gram & Nel Savage, City Cross Neighborhood for Amanda's arborist services
 - \$7,650.67 current balance
- **Working Groups Update** - 15 min
 - Engagement
 - Arbor Day Planting at City College High School - Friday 4/29
 - 12 trees along 33rd st corridor. Plus, mulch existing trees planted by Blue Water Baltimore
 - Board members already attended Environmental Club beforehand meeting to talk trees
 - Signed up: Amanda, Anne, Chris, Elliot, Justin and BTT team, Rob B, Maxine, Nayev, Zoe, Matt, Dan, Fred! Nice, big group.
 - Time capsule
 - Matt says that the beautification committee has concerns about maintenance. He will send them more information to help alleviate their concerns.
 - Anne will present PLANT and Tree City USA awards
 - Dan has the and will bring the proclamation
 - Meeting location: Baltimore City College 3320 The Alameda 21218. Meet at the northern end of campus along 33rd Street at The Alameda. Street parking along the east side of The Alameda or on





Kirk Ave, or on Chilton St, E. 32nd St, or E. 31st. Campus parking is possible but unlikely!

- Arbor Day Planting at Hampden Elem Friday 4/29 (Friends of Wyman Park)
- Cylburn Market Day - May 6th and 7th
 - Tree Giveaway and Tree Walk (donation, Fred)
 - Signed up:
 - Friday 5/6 (no giveaway): Amanda, Fred, Katie
 - Saturday 5/7: Amanda, Fred, Ted, Sean, Sylvester, Chris, Sandy
 - Giveaway will be on Saturday only. Still need volunteers for Saturday - online signup lists have been emailed.
 - Fred will host a tree walk with measuring big trees.
 - Board decided that \$10 should be the suggested donation amount for the tour.
 - Funds raised will go toward NRCC fund
- Herb Fest at GFLP - May 28th
 - Tree Giveaway Signed up: Sarah, Chris, Phyllis
 - Zoe will send follow up email with volunteers and schedule for both events to confirm and request volunteers for empty time slots.
 - Thanks to all who have already signed up!
- Youth
 - NRCC Applications for summer 2022 are still being accepted. We interviewed & accepted one student - Jesse. We are still hoping to find one more student for this summer! **PLEASE spread the word in your networks. We are willing to cover costs for any Baltimore city high school student to attend this weeklong outdoors summer camp:**
<https://www.marylandforestryfoundation.org/index.cfm?event=nrcc>
 - Baltimore County has asked us to fund 2 of their students, \$450 each. Should we also pay for our student as well?
 - This question raised a question if we paying for Baltimore County students, should we pay for the Baltimore City student even though they said they could pay?
 - Confusion came from an email from Dawn Balinski saying that boards always pay for the \$450 tuition for all students and that the





families should pay and if needed be reimbursed for the \$125 activity fee. (Each student costs \$575 total to attend camp)

- This was clarified by Sandy and Anne that if a student can pay for the whole thing, they are encouraged to do so and that boards are to step in for students that cannot afford it.

- Decision:

- Accepted city student, Jesse, will pay in full as previously discussed
- Zoe will refer Glenn (Balt Co Chair) to Dawn to request funding for their students. (Done!)
- Board will vote if asked for assistance from the Association level (Dawn)

- We need 2 new youth committee members for the coming school year.

Congrats to Maxine and Nayev as outgoing seniors!! **Any leads for their replacements?**

- **Our board should reach out to green teams at various other schools! Does anyone want to follow up on this task and so some research/emailing?**

- Advocacy Committee- Katie Lauter, Baltimore Green Space

- Would like to call an Advocacy Committee meeting. Urgent needs to protect our existing green spaces in Baltimore!!

1) Amanda and Matt attended a meeting in the Cylburn community recently about an endangered forest and some open lots near the Waldorf school. These green spaces were transferred to Parks and Rec, but unfortunately are now being sold off to developers.

2) Another forest patch in Mount Washington- private property sold to a new owner. City doesn't have much power to intervene besides enforcing forest conservation if trees are cut

3) BWB (Blue Water Baltimore) and BGS (Baltimore Green Space) were both called to a clearing and dumping issue in the Gywnns Falls neighborhood. Forest was cleared with no permits, then 200 truckloads of soil were illegally dumped by DPW/contractor. MDE installed fences to protect the Maiden Choice Run, but generally the site has not been cleaned up, & no one has been held accountable. This is an environmental crime. Has not been enforced

- Tree Ordinance Updates

- We have been working on this for years. We did the Forest Conservation update already thanks to everyone's support.





- Now, an interagency committee would like to pass a public property tree regulation that with specific mitigation requirements. Informally, the city has been enforcing replacement for 8” DBH (diameter breast height) and larger- now we want to codify this as law. Everyone is on board with this. But it has not been released from the sub-committee for 2 years. Current attempts to get meetings will aim to get it released for hearing on the main floor.
- Additionally, there is a private property tree bill - ‘heritage tree rule’. Similar bills have been very successful in other cities, including DC. Our version is drafted and gone to final edits. It is going to get pushback. Going for interagency vetting soon for feedback before we go public. The gist of this bill is: If you want to take down a perfectly healthy tree on your property, you will have to pay a lot of money based on the DBH. There is an existing formula for the exact fee. (some debate was started, but cut off due to time limitations)
- Chris Ryer, head of Dept of Planning, asked for it to be presented before the new climate change inter agency group: a subcommittee of sustainability committee.
- Tree Ordinance Committee would like Forestry Board permission to request meeting with Director Reginald Moore (Rec & Parks) to get an audience with him (given at meeting)
- Zoe G to reignite the Advocacy Committee email thread, Katie to schedule a meeting to join forces to write some letters and support these causes. **Please email Zoe or Katie if you have time and interest!**
This is important work for the board.
- **Bike Lane Medians - 5 min**
 - Forestry Board sign on to a letter stating that we do not believe the proposed bike lane should go through the middle of the 33rd St median due to concern about negative impact on mature tree health by root compaction over the critical root zone.
 - Request to members and guests to sign a letter against it and to choose one of the proposed alternate routes. Zoe will send more information ASAP
- **Seasonal Program Updates -5 min**
 - Tree Baltimore





- Welcome new Chief of Forestry - Dan Coy. Purdue University Forestry graduate. Originally worked with a utility and then got interested in Urban Forestry. Became City Forester of Alkart, Indiana and then spent 6 years as City Forester for Grand Rapids, Michigan. Has experience updating their Tree Ordinances and is very interested in helping with proposed changes. Has a passion for planting and young tree care, as well as urban wood utilization: Daniel.coy@baltimorecity.gov
- Big Tree Program - Fred
 - Measuring at Cylburn for Market Day
 - Amanda and Fred will be in touch with additional dates, after leaf-out in Northern Baltimore City.
- **Upcoming & “Bike Rack”** - 5 min
 - Zoe will finish her 3-year term as Board Chair at the end of 2022. Looking for a new chair(s).
 - HB884 was passed and addresses finding legacy trees and measures to save them
 - Similar legislation has also been passed at the National level
 - Erik Dihle (retire), Charles Murphy and Nathan Randolph are all leaving TreeBaltimore. Thursday 4/28 event at Union Brewery to say farewell.
 - Joan Maloof, founder of Old Growth Forest Network, is coming to GFLP (Gwynns Falls Leakin Park) on Friday, May 20th. Would like to formally, legally, preserve the forest there. Interest? Contact Sarah Lord :<fennofarm@gmail.com>
 - The TreeBaltimore Forestry Nursery NEEDS VOLUNTEERS this summer. Please sign up for a slot to water our thirsty trees:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4sgVmIhz1umxMv7MHfVzHFPxzV9N0siS04WOSvfw0XOdTQ/viewform>
 - Get involved! Volunteer at a tree-related event this spring:
<https://www.treebaltimore.org/treerevents>
- **Next meeting:** June, in person at Druid Hill pavilion, Tree Beers?

