

## **Minutes Projects Committee Meeting February 10, 2021**

The zoom meeting was called to order at 9:06 am. Present were: Elise Burroughs, Holly Camp, JoAnn Dalley, Caitlin Embry, Kendra Hall, William Hamersky, Robin Hanes, Allen Ingling, Kathy Nepote, Phil Stokes, Bill Sublette, Barbara White, Camille Wilson, Toine Wyckoff, Mark Zollinhofer.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved. Motion made by Camille and seconded by Toine.

### **Recent Projects:**

Crozet Park: We had a successful day pruning a variety of trees including crepe myrtles. Kathy mentioned that a number of trees had damage due to weed whackers or mowers and that we should take a day to put in mulch around the trees. Robin offered to donate some short tree shields to also protect the trees. Future work includes pruning more trees as well as some invasive control along the park trails. Participants: Allen, Barbara, Bill, Martha, Pat, Robert, Tim, Toine and Kathy. Bill Sublette took some great shots and posted them on the website.

Northeast Park: A number of CATS members removing vines climbing on trees along the trails. Although the area around the playgrounds is not too heavily infested, invasives are overwhelming other parts of the park. Caitlin with a Nature Conservancy crew worked on the site earlier. Participants: Kay, Allen, Toine, JoAnn, Holly, Camille and Kathy.

Jackson Via: Because of adverse weather, we had to postpone this project.

### **Upcoming Projects:**

We noted that the upcoming weather patterns did not bode well for upcoming projects. JoAnn posited that we might want to figure out how to do “pop-up” projects when the weather was favorable. After a discussion, we decided that each project leader would contact the project “adoptors” when a favorable day popped up. If they were able to get a critical mass of workers, Kathy would be informed of the day and time and then she would send an email notification to other Project members and frequent project workers. In the meantime we will use the current listing of possible dates with backup dates for March and April to work at the sites,

Feb. 11: Schenks Greenway Park. Invasives. 10 am. Postponed. Toine will try find a few members to help on a good day.

Feb. 15: Jackson Burley. Invasives. 1pm: Not looking good but we will wait until the weekend to decide.

Feb. 18: VDOF. Pruning. 10 am

Feb. 23: JWW Parkway. Pruning. 1 pm

Feb. 27: CATS Grove. Pruning, Invasives, Clean-up. 1pm

March 3: Jackson Via, 10 am. Make up date for February. Invasive control and prune trees that are around the school and playground. We may also want to work on marking a possible trail along the fence.

March 11: VDOF, 10 am. Possible make up date for the Feb. 18 project.

March 18: Pruning at JWWarner, 10 am.

March 27: CATS Grove work day (possible make up date and/or extension date.

April 8: Jackson Burley, 10 am. Possible make-up date for Feb. 15.

### Tree Commission Projects:

Kendra reported on CATS partnering with the Tree Commission to develop a tree planting project for the 10<sup>th</sup> and Page Neighborhood in Charlottesville. Roxanne White of the Tree Commission is working with Kendra and William on the groundwork with the neighborhood. They are going to work with local leaders and the City of Promise group on community outreach. Roxanne and Peggy Van Yahres are also contacting CACF about possible funding sources. At the earliest, planting would occur this fall, but much work needs to be done with the homeowners, and we may be thinking more of next fall. More information to come.

Robin and Peggy Van Yahres met with several CATS members and visited Franklin Street, a possible site for street tree plantings. A new sidewalk is planned and we decided that we should visit the site after the sidewalk has been installed and then do a reassessment.

### Free Trees

Barbara offered the idea that we might want to “give away” trees from the CATS nursery instead of doing a planting project at Franklin St. Concerns were expressed about the level of commitment to care. Another suggestion was that we could offer free trees to people who signed up for the Tree Basics Course on How to Plant a Tree. This idea will be revisited in the future.

### Darden Towe Park

Barbara reported on the ongoing efforts to replace the dead/dying ash trees along the parking lot area and adjacent sites. According to Jim Barbour 125 or more trees are needed to replace those are being removed. He wrote a grant but was unable to get it through the county bureaucracy before the grant deadline (Feb 14). Barbara is writing a smaller grant for trees for the site. The grant will be for 30 trees: 22 for the Tree Steward Training Class laboratory on tree planting and 8 trees for CATS members to plant at another time. This is a convenient site and we could be planting trees at this

site every year. Tree fencing and mulching should be included in the grant to protect the trees from not only deer but also people who will be walking in the area.

#### Jackson Via Elementary School:

Elise reported that she plans to plant some additional trees and bushes at the site which she hopes to be able to get from the CATS Nursery.

#### VFW Bamboo

Kathy reported that some of the bamboo cut back 2 years ago appears to be growing back. We will check with Chris Gensic to see when and if we can go back and take some control measures (cutting, foliary spray, etc).

#### Greenleaf Park

Camille reported that Phil generously planted 2 additional beautybushes in the park. She plans to plant some differences species of ferns and will probably use the “pop up concept” to set up the date. She and JoAnn also mentioned that we should consider removing the leatherleaf mahonia plants that are now invading the park.

#### Daughters of Zion Cemetery

Camille and Toine have been in contact with folk associated with the cemetery. We may be able to plant trees there but they are still finding unmarked graves, so.....

#### Arbor Day – April 30.

Mark reported that the Tree Commission is planning a PR event highlighting a tree that CATS had honored last year. The members suggested an alternative activity using the allee at Walker School. For each of the 4 species of trees at the site, a student could report on its unique features. Robin said that she will have a CATS Arbor Day highlighting a tree in Albemarle.

#### Tree Commission Documents

Mark will email us the Tree Commission report on Charlottesville Tree Canopy. This report is the basis for trying to increase the tree canopy at 10<sup>th</sup> and Page and also Starhill. Mark is also sending us the Tree Commission listing of preferred trees and shrubs. This listing is an information resource for construction projects in the City.

The meeting ended at 10:44 am.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 9 am ZOOM**