



KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

City of Kirkwood

139 S. Kirkwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

July 28, 2015

PRESENT: David Slane, Ellen Edman, Andy Baldrige, Linda Holekamp, Matthew Stacker, Carol Rush, Joe Day, and Georgia Ragland, city staff liaison. Nancy Luetzow, council liaison.

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Bill E. Bensing, Director of Public Services

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given, the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission convened on July 28, 2015, at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri.

- I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by David Slane.
- II. Secretary Report: Minutes from the April 29, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted. Minutes from the June 23, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.
- III. Citizen Comments: None.
- IV. Guest Introduction: Bill Bensing was introduced and it was noted that he was there for an agenda item under new business.
- V. Council Liaison Report: Nancy Luetzow reported that the Community Day at Avery Park went very well. The next one will be at Monfort Park on August 15. Council and staff conducted a budget planning retreat in June.
- VI. ACTIVITY REPORTS
 - a. Junior Treekeepers Program: Ellen Edman said that she had been in contact with Michelle Storgion. One of Michelle's suggestions was to split up the responsibility for teaching and fundraising. Ellen is working on lining up teachers. St. Peter and St. Gerard are fine but since there is a new science curriculum in the Kirkwood school district Dr. Painter will need to sign off before commitments are made at the public schools.
 - b. Education and Outreach: Ellen Edman has been working on a newsletter. One side of a utility bill insert in September and March has been reserved for information from Urban Forestry. She presented a draft. There was discussion that due to how utility bills are mailed throughout the month that mention of KUFC's booth at Greentree will be too late for the September edition. Linda Holekamp suggested a Did You Know section as a replacement paragraph that would remind homeowners of their responsibility to keep trees and bushes trimmed to certain heights over sidewalks and streets.
 - c. Tree City USA/Growth Award/Other Awards:
 - i. Tree city, USA. Recertification 2015 (Growth award if applicable) Due 12/31/15

- ii. MDC- Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence Due 12/01/15.
- iii. KUFC Advocate Award – due 3-15-16.
- d. KUFC Annual Report: completed, and presented to Council.
- e. Event Participation: David Slane has signed up and paid the application fee for a float in the Greentree Parade. Joe Day has received confirmation of a booth at Greentree. He will circulate a sign up sheet for the booth schedule at next month’s meeting.
- f. Tree Inventory Update: Georgia Ragland reported that the city has been unofficially notified that we are receiving another \$10,000 TRIM grant. Once official notification has been made ArborPro can return to do more of the street tree inventory.
- g. Tree Ordinance Subcommittee Report: Andy will work on setting up a meeting with Bill Bensing and Ryan Spencer.

OLD BUSINESS: David Slane nominated Joseph Day as Vice Chair. Matthew Stacker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Bill Bensing was present to outline for the commission two proposals that he made to the city council at the budget planning retreat. Last year’s citizen satisfaction survey showed that residents believe that repair of streets is the community’s number one priority. Bensing said as a result that he wanted to refocus the street department personnel on street repair, add a new position for a city forester, and contract for street tree related activities that city crews have been doing. He also discussed a proposed voluntary program partnering with residents who would like a tree planted. The process by which new positions and programs are proposed and budgeted was discussed and he welcomed comments by the commission.

Staff liaison Georgia Ragland provided some updated information on the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer to the immediate area and advances in treatment options. The Park Department has had an employee trained to administer Emamectin benzoate to ash trees every two to three years via an injection. No recommendation has yet been made on whether to treat the ash trees that are parkway trees. Extrapolating from the portion of the city that has completed the street tree inventory it is believed there could be 500-600 street trees that are ash trees. She is trying to arrange for a representative to attend the next meeting to provide more information about these new treatment advances.

NEXT MEETING: August 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm Kirkwood City Hall Main Conference Room

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm

David Slane, Chair _____

Date Approved _____