



KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

City of Kirkwood

139 S. Kirkwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

November 24, 2015

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

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: Bill Bensing, Director of Public Services; Janet Mulroy 906 Cleveland

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given, the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission convened on November 24, 2015, at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri.

- I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by David Slane.
- II. Secretary Report: Minutes from the October 27, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.
- III. Citizen Comments: Janet Mulroy was in attendance to request permission to remove a Sweet Gum tree that she felt was tilting towards her house since a good portion of it had been removed to preserve distance from the power lines. Matt Stacker made a motion to allow Ms. Mulroy to remove the tree which was seconded by Andy Baldrige. All were in favor except Joe Day who abstained. The commission encouraged Ms. Mulroy to plant a replacement tree somewhere in her yard where it would not come in conflict with the power lines.
- IV. Council Liaison Report: Nancy Luetzow reported that Fifty Trees had planted 71 trees at the end of October bringing the number of trees planted that have survived to more than 400. She mentioned that the Citizen Finance Committee has been meeting to review the proposed budget on Friday mornings. It was noted that the next meeting for the CFC would be December 4 at 7am. Some of the items they are discussing is a proposed electric rate increase and new positions such as the one for a city forester. She mentioned that trial stop signs have been placed on Geyer Road south of Big Bend due to resident concerns.
- V. Guest Introduction: Bill Bensing was present to continue discussion of a draft tree preservation ordinance. Staff presented a draft and explained that tree protection guidelines had never been codified so there was not enforcement mechanism so they had been included in the draft. The draft calls for the process for property development to begin with a tree inventory and Tree Preservation Plan first before submitting a site plan for construction. The goal is to identify trees to protect and which will be removed and then if trees to be protected are harmed there is a monetary penalty. There was a discussion concerning private property rights. Concern was expressed that there are currently no tree planting requirements for building on single lots as there are for subdivisions. Bill explained that one community he knows of collects \$150 from builders at

the beginning of the process and at the end of the project it is used to give the new homeowner a gift certificate to a tree nursery that is good for one year. This allows the homeowner to choose the type and location of tree. Further discussion centered on the appropriate level of penalties. A per tree cost with no maximum limit was preferred. There was discussion on how to provide an additional level of protection to truly significant trees on private property. For the city's sesquicentennial a list of trees older than the date of the city's incorporation was developed and those trees were designated as Pioneer trees. Bill Bensing said that it was possible for a homeowner to request and the city approve a preservation easement that would be able to protect the tree even if property changes hands. Bill Bensing will work on incorporating the corrections and changes that were discussed and have another draft to the commission prior to the January meeting date. He will not be able to attend the January meeting. A subcommittee will meet to work on designing alternate tree planting standards.

VI. ACTIVITY REPORTS

- a. Junior Treekeepers Program: A tree was planted at St. Gerard.
- b. Education and Outreach: Another utility insert is scheduled for March, 2016 and Ellen Edman asked commissioners to send her any items they think would be appropriate in early January.
- 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: No update.
- e. Event Participation: No report.
- f. Tree Inventory Update: Notification of grant award of \$10,000 has been received. ArborPro will continue to do the actual work.
- g. Tree Ordinance Subcommittee Report: See above.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

NEXT MEETING: January 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm Kirkwood City Hall Main Conference Room

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn at 8:46 pm

David Slane, Chair _____

Date Approved _____