



## KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

City of Kirkwood

139 S. Kirkwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

January 26, 2016

**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; Robert Griffith of Kirkwood-Webster Construction and the homeowners of 324 W. Madison; Bill Ruppert.

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given, the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission convened on January 26, 2016 at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri.

- I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by David Slane.
- II. Secretary Report: Minutes from the November 24, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.
- III. Citizen Comments: Bill Ruppert (former member of the Urban Forestry Commission) spoke about past efforts of the commission to come up with a tree ordinance. He provided the commission with background material related to their efforts. Robert Griffith presented a request on behalf of the home owners of 324 W. Madison to remove three street trees. One tree is diseased, another is in poor shape having sustained damage from a lightning strike, and one is a Sycamore that is poorly situated in regards to the power lines, proximity to the driveway, and is heaving the sidewalk.
- IV. Council Liaison Report: Nancy Luetzow reported that the council received a report on the economic feasibility of a proposed downtown theater and the consultants will now be moving on to costs. They have done a review of the draft budget. Staff is dealing with the aftermath of flooding at low lying parks.
- V. Guest Introduction: Bill Bensing was present to continue discussion of a draft tree preservation ordinance. He expressed a desire to look at the draft Bill Ruppert supplied. He spoke briefly about some projects that are in his proposed budget and also about recent actions by Planning and Zoning concerning flexible site plans. He believes the addition of a city forester will help homeowners and developers retain more trees. It was suggested by Ellen Edman that Bill Ruppert could be an asset in developing the tree ordinance. Andy Baldrige was invited to set up another subcommittee meeting at which Bill Ruppert could attend.
- VI. ACTIVITY REPORTS
  - a. Junior Treekeepers Program: Ellen Edman reported that she has had no contact from Keysor. There was discussion about approaching other parochial and private schools to see if they are interested in adding the program.

- b. Education and Outreach: Another utility insert is scheduled for March, 2016 and there was a brief discussion about potential topics.
- c. Tree City USA/Growth Award/Other Awards:
  - i. Tree city, USA. Recertification 2015 (Growth award if applicable) Submitted.
  - ii. MDC- Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence: Not submitted this year.
  - iii. KUFC Advocate Award – due 3-15-16.
- d. KUFC Annual Report: David Slane has completed it. A date will be scheduled to present to Council.
- e. Event Participation: Earth Day event is tentatively scheduled for April 16. David Slane will contact Donna Poe to see if there is a potential Arbor Day planting site at the Farmers Market.
- f. Tree Inventory Update: ArborPro has completed this phase of the inventory and the city's GIS map of the trees is up to date and available on the website.
- g. Tree Ordinance Subcommittee Report: See above.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The commission discussed the tree removal requests. Matt Stacker made a motion to approve the tree removal request for 1608 Lynkirk. Joe Day seconded the motion. All were in favor. Joe Day made a motion to permit the removal of one damaged and one diseased tree at 324 W. Madison per their request but to not allow the removal of the Sycamore. Matt Stacker seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm Kirkwood City Hall Main Conference Room

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 9:14 pm

David Slane, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_