



## KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

City of Kirkwood

139 S. Kirkwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

February 23, 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; Bill Ruppert, Maggie Duwe.

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given, the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission convened on February 23, 2016 at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri.

- I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by David Slane.
- II. Secretary Report: Minutes from the January 26, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.
- III. Citizen Comments: Bill Ruppert (former member of the Urban Forestry Commission) spoke and mentioned that last Friday was the birthday of the Urban Forestry Commission which began in 1998. He presented a proposal for an Arbor Day celebration. He met with Donna Poe, executive director of the Special Business District, and as a result is proposing that a Pear tree on the Argonne median across from the train station be removed (it is an invasive species) and a Black Tupelo (Wildfire) from Kirkwood in Bloom be planted. He said he met with the leaders of the Kirkwood School District and took that opportunity to speak with Bryan Painter, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum about the Jr. TreeKeepers program. He reported that his impression is that Dr. Painter still likes the program but may have some ideas on how to update/reinvent it in this digital age.
- IV. Council Liaison Report: Nancy Luetzow reported that there is a local election coming up and the council is working on the budget.
- V. Guest Introduction: Bill Bensing was present to continue discussion of a draft tree preservation ordinance. He said he had reviewed the earlier draft that Bill Ruppert had provided and that it was very similar to the one the current commission is working on. He said that he, Ryan Spencer and Georgia Ragland had met with the city attorney who had provided feedback which he will be using to continue to tweak the draft. For example, there is already a section that covers nuisances so any reference to nuisances will reference back to the existing code. There was discussion about how the existing subdivision ordinance covers requirements for tree preservation and landscaping for everything but single lots and how any changes to the subdivision ordinance are the purview of Planning and Zoning. The draft Bill Bensing is working on would be limited to protection of public trees and trees on single lots.
- VI. ACTIVITY REPORTS

- a. Junior Treekeepers Program: Ellen Edman reported that she had finally heard from a teacher at Keysor. They will distribute seedlings again to students and David Slane will be invited to do a climbing demonstration.
- b. Education and Outreach: The March utility insert is ready to go.
- c. Tree City USA/Growth Award/Other Awards:
  - i. Tree city, USA. Recertification 2016 (Growth award if applicable) Due 12/31/16
  - ii. MDC- Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence: Due 12/01/16
  - iii. KUFC Advocate Award – due 3-15-16. Joe Day moved to name Gerry Biedenstein as the KUFC Advocate of the Year. Andy Baldrige seconded. All were in favor.
- d. KUFC Annual Report: Copies of the 2015 Annual Report were distributed to members. David Slane will present it to council at their meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.
- e. Event Participation: Earth Day event is scheduled for April 16. The members accepted Kirkwood in Bloom’s offer of a Black Tupelo for planting in the Argonne median. An Arbor Day proclamation will be prepared.
- 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:** None.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm Kirkwood City Hall Main Conference Room

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm

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

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