



KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Meeting March 23, 2010

WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET*

Members present: Roger Vonder Bruegge, Dave Endres, Susan Renard, Priscilla Ward, Alan Hautly, and Maggie Duwe

Council Liaison: Joe Godi

Staff Liaison: Georgia Ragland

Excused: Michelle Storgion

Guest: **David Poger:** candidate for City Council

Teresa Heidenry: resident

I. Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Citizen Comments:

Teresa Heidenry: I am here because I want to get involved in local politics and am going to all the meetings.

Vonder Bruegge: You are very welcome. Please feel free to ask questions.

III. Secretary report: the minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting were approved as amended.

IV. Chair report:

Vonder Bruegge:

A. We have received a request for a speaker from the 25 Gardeners Club on May 3rd.

We should talk with Priscilla when she gets here about this.

B. We have a report from Dave when we get to Commission Items.

V. Council Liaison report:

Godi: I talked with the Mayor and he and Georgia have been meeting about the KUFC.

Ragland: We talked informally. There are some good education opportunities available.

Vonder Bruegge: What are they?

Ragland: One of the thoughts was to have someone residents could talk with for advice about trees. You could set aside a Saturday per month to meet with people and answer questions. People are always looking for someone to talk with.

Godi: We do that at Greentree, but this is not getting a Tree Ordinance.

Ragland: This doesn't preclude the Ordinance.

Godi: The Magic House said we could meet there to conduct classes.

Duwe: We may have to redefine our role to include more educational activities.

Godi: This is my last meeting. We have to keep up our image as the Greentree City. Thank you all and I am around to help.

Vonder Bruegge: Thank you for all your help on the Commission.

VI. Commission Items:

Endres: Jost Greenhouse in Des Peres produces trees designed to go into areas between sidewalks and streets and in public boulevards. They are highly successful with these transplanted trees. They are grown in a bag like a fish dip net with a ¼ inch opening and 12 inch diameter. When they dig the tree 95% if the roots are preserved, so they have a much higher rate of survival. Then the net is removed. These trees are for the public sector, not the private. He has a lot of varieties available. The cost is from \$15-20 per tree. Richmond Heights, Crestwood, Chesterfield, as well as other communities are currently buying these trees at about 1000 trees per year. The trees are about 4-6 feet tall with a 1 ½ inch caliper. This would be about reforesting Kirkwood's Urban Forest. We could ask the owner to pay for half and the City would pay for half the cost. This way the owner is invested and would take care of the tree. I would recommend the planting be subcontracted. I think the City could come up with \$10 per tree.

Renard: There is a lot of available space, without power lines, for planting trees.

Endres: The Kentucky Coffee Bean tree is taking the place of the Ash and will work under power lines.

Ragland: The Council is interested in all these ideas.

Godi: We went to see the trees and they are very nice and reasonable.

Renard: What do we have to do to buy into this?

Endres: I would bet we could write a grant and then get matching funds from the homeowner.

Vonder Bruegge: This is a novel idea and I think for something as important as this we can find the money. Does anyone have a problem with this concept?

Endres: I ran it by the Mayor and he liked it.

Duwe: What if we stressed more native trees, as well?

Endres: Oh sure. This is three year project. We would first give our order to Jost. He would plant them and they would be ready for transplant in three years.

Vonder Bruegge: So no one has any problems with this tree planting concept?

(All are in agreement) So, Dave can pursue this.

Ward: The Boy Scouts could do this, with a supervision, as a Public Service Project. Troop 325 used to be active in giving away trees at Greentree.

Endres: To change the subject...What is going on with Argonne?

Ragland: I don't know. You could get information from the E-newsletter from Donna Poe.

VII. Activity Reports:

A. Jr. Treekeepers:

Ward: Michelle and I will both be speaking with the 25 Gardeners Club on May 3rd. We will do the program we put together for Rowena.

Vonder Bruegge: I can be there too. And I'll let Lynn know you'll be there.

Ward: The St. Peters Graduation will be May 14th from 1:45-3:00pm. The Tillman Graduation will be April 21st at 2:30pm.

Vonder Bruegge: Can you coordinate this with the Mayor?

Ragland: He usually likes to be there.

Ward: We give out certificates. Do we do that here at City Hall?

Ragland: We have about 100 here.

Ward: We will need about 200.

Ragland: We can order more.

Ward: Or I can print more.

We had a presentation at Rowena Garden Club and it went well. They were all very interested and wanted to know how they could help. Maybe we could put out a small newsletter to the Garden Clubs keeping them informed.

B. Education and Outreach: See Commission Items

C. Planning and Zoning: none

D. TreeKeeper/Inventory:

Ragland: I have information from Allen Lamberg in GIS. (There was a chart handed out) These monetary estimates assume the survey will be done with volunteers. The Labor charges are for blocks of time bought from companies that will help with implementing the software. This would need approval from Council.

Ward: There were about 40 people involved the last time we did a survey. We did a quarter of the City per year.

Hautly: Why do we need a survey? I'm just asking because I don't know.

Renard: A survey monitors the public trees and shows us the tree value as an asset to the City. Fema can work with this if there is a disaster and pay us for the lost trees.

Ward: And if there is a disease process we can anticipate it. For instance, we are likely to lose all the Ash trees.

Vonder Bruegge: We need to be planting understory trees.

Renard: This is for future generations.

Vonder Bruegge: This can be on our list to take to Council.

Ragland: Council doesn't really know some of this and they need to know.

Renard: I'll put it together.

Vonder Bruegge: Would you get it to Maggie and me?

E. TreeCity USA-Recertification Due 12/31/2010: We have not heard about 2009 yet.

MDC Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence: Due 12/01/2010

Advocate Award: Due 03/15/2010-Paul Loida is our nomination.

Annual Report: It is on the website.

F. Tree Code: pending meeting with Council

G. Event Participation: Food and Flowers (in May): none

VIII. Old Business:

Vonder Bruegge: We went to the Council work session on March 4. I feel that they understand more of why we are frustrated. On the whole it was productive. And we need to finish it when we can finish it.

Renard: I think Todd wishes he had money to do public trees.

Vonder Bruegge: I don't think it's that. I think the culture has changed.

IX. New Business:

Vonder Bruegge: As a Kirkwood citizen Bill Ruppert spoke with the Webster Kirkwood Times about some kind of story. There was an email about this.

Endres: I wish he hadn't gone to this so soon. We need to have time to work this out.

Vonder Bruegge: We need to tell them we are working on this issue.

Ragland: Please forward all emails to me, so I can inform Council. I need you to know that your emails are public and need to be copied. Then they are kept as public documents. This must include the minutes' corrections and additions.

There is \$152.99 in your account. There has been a \$1000.00 donation that needs to be appointed by Council. It will be available after April 15th. The River Birch seedlings are coming in.

Ward: Does the total include the books we ordered?

Ragland: No

Ward: So, we are low on funds for now.

X. Return to Public Comments

Bob Sears (arrived after the meeting's start): I would suggest you talk with Curt Carron about GPS, especially about equipment. And the only thing we, at Parks, talk about in an email is setting a meeting.

X. Adjourn the meeting: meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Next meeting is April 27, 2010 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Duwe, Secretary