



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission

December 4, 2012

Air Pollution Control District Boardroom

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Announcements

Katy Schneider and Henry Heuser, Jr., Commission Co-chairs, welcomed Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, "Commission" or LMTAC) members and guests.

II. Approval of Minutes

Henry called for approval of the minutes. They received unanimous approval.

III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Allen Steinbock

Allen Steinbock, Commission Secretary/Treasurer, reported that the Center for Neighborhoods has agreed to act as fiscal agent for the Commission for a period of two years. A document that describes this relationship in detail will be reviewed by the Commission's co-chairs before the next meeting.

IV. Old Business

a. Update on Eco-Tech Tree Donation Project – Bryan Slade, Eco-Tech

Bryan Slade from Eco-Tech, a local solid waste management company, spoke to the Commission about their recent pledge to donate and plant 10,000 trees over the next 10 years. Mr. Slade reported that 475 trees have been committed to sites so far with a good number of them having already been planted. Mr. Slade recognized Mesude Duyar and Mike Hayman for their aid in the process of securing sites for plantings. Henry asked Mr. Slade if he felt that Eco-Tech was receiving adequate publicity for their generosity. To that Mr. Slade replied, "We're not doing this for the recognition. It's the right thing to do and we would like to encourage others to help replenish our tree canopy."

b. Establishing the Tree Non-profit Organization – Allen Steinbock

There were no new developments to report on the establishment of the non-profit organization.

c. US Forest Service Grant – Katy Schneider

Katy reported that our potential partner in this endeavor, Biodiversity Project, determined that they were not suitably matched to continue seeking the grant and that the Commission may seek a new partner and will continue to look for grant project opportunities. In related news, Katy reported that she, along with the Scientific/Inventory Committee and others, will be meeting with a representative from Davey Tree Institute to discuss potential next steps in developing a tree canopy analysis, a street tree inventory, and a master plan.

d. By – Laws Committee – Michelle King

Michelle asked for volunteers to serve in the By-Laws Committee. Allen Steinbock said that he would help.

e. Outreach and Education Committee Report – Monica Orr

Monica reported that the stewardship program is beginning to take shape. She also reported that 5 trees, donated by Eco-Tech, were planted at Moore School. Lastly, Monica stated that the outreach materials that her committee has been working on are coming along, albeit slowly. The group is trying to figure out what it is that citizens can do to help once they receive the messaging.

f. Summary of Partners in Community Forestry National Conference – Henry Heuser, Jr. and Mesude Duyar

Henry distributed a handout highlighting the biggest takeaways from the conference (Attachment A). He also passed around a number of promotional materials. Henry noted that he was impressed with a few tree initiatives in California including Sacramento's street tree improvements and the UC Davis Shade Ordinance. Mesude spoke about the importance of having a tree plan in place in case of emergencies (natural disasters, EAB, Asian Long-Horned Beetle, etc.).

V. New Business

a. Tree Canopy Waiver Discussion – Phil Bills

The Commission invited Phil Bills, Director of Planning and Design Services, to speak about why tree canopy waivers are granted in light of the Alternatives for Compliance provision (10.1.3) of the Land Development Code (LDC). This section provides developers the opportunity to preserve existing trees on site, plant new trees on the development site or as street trees on adjacent rights-of-way, or plant new trees on an alternative site approved by the Planning Commission instead of seeking a tree canopy waiver.

Mr. Bills brought copies of a site plan that he thought would help explain why tree canopy waivers are sometimes necessary. Commissioner Sherie Long explained the basic elements of this plan and the issues involved in approving it, noting that this plan concerned buffer requirement waivers. Many of the commissioners questioned how this plan was relevant to the current discussion as no tree canopy waiver had been requested. Mr. Bills then discussed the River Metals site, which had used the Alternative for Compliance and will be planting 243 trees along River Rd. in the near future.

In response to Mr. Bills' presentation, Katy stated that she still did not see any reason to grant tree canopy waivers in light of the Alternative for Compliance provisions of the LDC. She went on to ask Mr. Bills how the Commission could be made aware of tree canopy waiver requests and waiver data from previous years. Scott Hannah said that he thought the number of tree canopy waivers requested in previous years would be quite small. Michelle King responded that the Commission is

tasked with looking at this issue from several policy perspectives and that this was one piece of that larger picture. Sherie added that the Commission should receive notification of tree canopy waivers during the two week comment period in the development review process. It was then noted that the Planning Commission and the Planning and Design Services staff that serve as case managers should be made aware of the Alternatives for Compliance section and be encouraged to use it. Mr. Bills said that his agency will begin to push for the Alternatives for Compliance part of the LDC to be used when appropriate.

It was agreed that Mr. Bills should come back before the Commission with better examples of cases that require tree canopy waivers. There was discussion of the Commission receiving notice of cases involving tree canopy waivers, but no official decision was made on the matter.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Projects and Maintenance – Mike Hayman

Mike reported that the trees donated by Eco-Tech are being planted at various sites around the city. He said that by January, we will have planted 100 of the trees. He also stated that, so far, we have been under budget on every tree and every project. Mike concluded by saying we need more field work in southwest Louisville to assess planting needs.

b. Technical Advisory Committee – John Hamilton

John spoke about the upcoming Tree Board Seminar being held at the Clifton Center Reception Hall on February 22, 2013. The seminar will attract tree groups from all over Kentucky and will feature many guest speakers.

David Kaelin, guest and local land owner, spoke about the problems associated with clear cutting trees in the development process. Mr. Kaelin distributed handouts to the Commission with imagery that shows how clear cutting trees on a site can damage our canopy. Mr. Kaelin spoke further about the importance of woodland preservation and encouraged the preservation of existing trees during the development process.

Cheri Bryant Hamilton spoke about a story she read in the New York Times about tree canopy lost during Hurricane Sandy. She also spoke about the importance of having a tree protection ordinance in place. Henry asked that the article be distributed to the Commission (Attachment B).

c. Science and Inventory Committee – Monica Orr (filling in for Margaret Carreiro)

Monica reported that the group is still working on finding leaf-on imagery suitable for an urban tree canopy analysis and that the group is exploring multiple options for this need.

VII. Adjourn

The next Commission meeting will be held on January, 22 2013 at 5:00 in the Air Pollution Control District boardroom. Michelle noted that future meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.