



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission

February 26, 2013

5:00 PM

Air Pollution Control District Boardroom

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Announcements

Commission Co-chair Henry Heuser, Jr. welcomed Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, "Commission" or "LMTAC") members and guests. The following Commissioners were present: Henry Heuser, Jr. (Co-Chair), Katy Schneider (Co-Chair), Allen Steinbock (Secretary/Treasurer), Paul Capiello, Stephen Cotton, Meseude Duyar, Robert Eberenz, Todd Eberle, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Scott Hannah, Michelle King, Sherie Long, Monica Orr, John Potter, and Mark White.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 22, 2013 were approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

a. Non-profit Organization Status – Allen Steinbock, Secretary/Treasurer

Secretary/Treasurer Allen Steinbock reported that he had met with representatives from the Center for Neighborhoods and they have rewritten the Memorandum of Understanding after meeting with the City Attorney. Allen asked if anyone knew of an attorney that might provide pro-bono work for the Commission. Commissioners Scott Hannah and Monica Orr both replied that there are some local attorneys that will work pro-bono for non-profit agencies.

b. Frankfort Avenue Street Master Plan Update – Katy Schneider

Commission Co-chair Katy Schneider deferred to Mike Hayman, chair of the Projects and Maintenance Committee, to report on the Master Plan to the group. Mike said that a number of deteriorating Bradford Pears near the Printing House for the Blind have been removed and are being replaced with White Sycamores.

c. Kentucky Tree Board Seminar – John Hamilton, Metro Parks

John Hamilton, Technical Advisory Committee Chair, reported that 75 people attended the Seminar and the event came in under budget. He also said that the five speakers' presentations will be posted on the LMTAC website. The event was informative and it sparked some lively discussions. Katy said that as a result of the Seminar, she can now identify an Asian Long-Horned Beetle.

IV. New Business

a. Recommended Revisions to the Louisville Metro Land Development Code (LDC), Chapter 10, Part 1: Tree Canopy Requirements (Attached) – Katy Schneider/Policy Committee

Katy Schneider began her report by repeating a question asked at previous meetings, "Why are tree canopy waivers necessary in light of LDC Chapter 10.1.3, Alternatives for Compliance?" Katy went on to describe how this section alleviates the need for tree canopy waivers. In addition, Katy mentioned that even Phil Bills, Director of Planning and Design, could not offer an example of when a tree canopy waiver was absolutely necessary. In light of this, the Policy Committee has recommended that the LDC do away with tree canopy waivers.

The next recommendations dealt with LDC Table 10.1.2, Minimum Tree Canopy Coverage. Katy reported that the Policy Committee has recommended that the percentages in the table be increased across the board, with larger increases for requirements for new plantings compared to percentages required when trees are preserved. The goal of this recommendation is to incentivize the preservation of mature canopy on development sites.

The next recommendation of the Policy Committee is to eliminate the tree canopy credit for evergreen trees. The Policy Committee feels that deciduous trees should be used exclusively for tree canopy credit.

Katy then reported that the Policy Committee would like to see the canopy plans for development sites larger than 2 acres require approval from a certified arborist.

Commissioner Stephen Cotton asked if these recommendations are intended for the Mayor. Katy then explained that these recommendations will be voted on by the Landscaping/Tree Canopy subcommittee of the LDC Improvement Committee. The recommendations, if passed, would then potentially move on to the LDC Improvement Committee, Planning Commission, and Metro Council.

Commissioner Rob Eberenz asked if the percentages in Table 10.1.2 were increased in 2010. Ex-Officio Commissioner Sherie Long explained that the percentages were put in place in 2008 in response to an incident at a development site in which a large stand of trees was removed.

Katy reminded the Commission that this will not be the only time that recommendations for changes to the LDC can be made. She said that coming in at this level is an opportunity to voice opinions on changes being made. She also said that there are members of the Landscaping/Tree Canopy subcommittee that would like to see the tree canopy standards weakened and/or eliminated. In order to show that Louisville Metro does not have overly stringent tree canopy standards, the Policy Committee is doing research on peer cities to see what their tree canopy standards are like.

Katy concluded her report that the regulations in the LDC should reflect our community's philosophy on trees.

Commissioner Todd Eberle made a motion to approve the Policy Committee's recommended revisions to the Louisville Metro Land Development Code (LDC), Chapter 10, Part 1. Commissioner Monica Orr seconded the motion. The motion to approve the recommendations passed with one nay vote from Commissioner Rob Ebernez and yav votes from the other ten voting Commissioners present.

V. Committee Reports

a. Planting and Maintenance – Mike Hayman

Mike Hayman gave an update on the tree plantings at Atherton High School and in Irish Hill. He reported that all of the trees donated by Eco-tech for this year have been planted. Katy mentioned that the Commission should try to solicit more tree donations from other companies. Mike concluded that JCPS is a big target for plantings in the next year.

b. Inventory/Scientific – Margeret Carreiro/Shane Corbin

There was no report from this committee.

c. Community Education and Outreach – Monica Orr

Commissioner Monica Orr reported that work continues on the Tree Stewardship program and that Moore Traditional School is being eyed as a guinea pig for the program.

VI. Adjourn

Before the meeting was adjourned, Henry and Katy reported that they had met with representatives from LG&E to discuss how trees can help save energy. The question was raised whether LG&E would somehow participate in Arbor Day (no answer right now). Henry also reported that Gill Holland is raising money for a Portland/Shipping Port revitalization project. Henry noted that these areas are in dire need of trees and the potential is there to work with Gill on this project.

It was noted that the Commission and all committees will soon be reviewed in accordance with the Commission's one year anniversary.

Monica Orr reported that there will be an Arbor Day event on April 12th in Cherokee Park. The event will have tree plantings, activities for children, and many booths.

Cory Petry, and audience member, asked the Commission if there is an action plan in place for dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer. Katy and John Hamilton replied that we must have a tree inventory in order to develop a plan.

An audience member from Windy Hills stated that there will be an Arbor Day event in their city on April 20th. The neighborhood will be giving away 20 trees.

Henry announced that the next Commission meeting is March 26, 2013, at the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Boardroom at 5:00 and adjourned the meeting.