



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission
Tuesday, March 25th, 2014 at 5:00 PM
Air Pollution Control District Boardroom
Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Announcements –Katy Schneider, Co-Chair

The following Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, “Commission” or “LMTAC”) members were present: Henry Heuser (Co-Chair), Katy Schneider (Co-Chair), Amy Johnson, Aaron Boggs, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Betsy Ruhe, Scott Hannah, Monica Orr, Kenya Wade, Claude Stephens, Todd Eberle, Paul Cappiello and Maria Koetter, as well as ex-officio Commissioners Mesude Duyar, Sherie’ Long, Michelle King, and Mark White.

Co-Chair Henry Heuser brought the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

II. Approval of Minutes – Henry Heuser, Jr., Co-Chair

Henry asked for and received unanimous approval of the minutes from last meeting with the spelling of Stephens corrected on Page 1.

III. Old Business

a. Update from Office of Sustainability – Maria Koetter, Director of Sustainability

Maria Koetter, Commissioner (Office of Sustainability), gave an update on the tree-related projects of the Office of Sustainability. The Urban Heat Island Study, which is privately funded, is underway with Dr. Brian Stone. The Tree Canopy Assessment is funded by public and private funds. We still need to raise \$15,700. The vendor has been selected and we’re currently working through the contracting phase. Once that’s complete we can announce vendor. There is a tree action team coordinated through the Louisville Sustainability Council. Contact Maria or go to www.louisvillesustainabilitycouncil.org to get involved. Maria is also working with Brightside on a green living project.

Ex-officio Commissioner (City Arborist) Mark White reported on the City Hall parking lot tree planting on March 8, 2014. With help from the Louisville Nursery Association (LNA), they planted 28 trees and 16 evergreens and shrubs. Of the 28 trees, there were 13 or 14 varieties. LNA donated the labor and plant material. They want to come back every year.

b. Update from Brightside: Campaigns – Gina O’Brien, Brightside Executive Director

Gina O'Brien, Executive Director of Brightside, gave an update on the Louisville Tree Fund, which is now live at <http://brightsidefoundation.com/louisville-tree-fund.html>. They are still working on the procedure to accept funds. The balance as of a couple weeks ago was \$12,500.

IV. New Business

a. Planting Updates - Ken Herndon, Director of Operation and Communications, Louisville Downtown Management District

Ken Herndon updated the Commission on the Louisville Downtown Management District's (LDMD) tree plantings. The LDMD is funding the planting of 166 trees downtown. They are also using leftover funds from a grant to prune mature trees. In the past, they used a "box-truck pruning" method. They are trying to avoid this method by pruning further up. Maria and Ken are working on a project to get more tree wells downtown. On 2nd street from Broadway to Jefferson, there are currently brick pavers. Over time, these brick pavers collect gunk, preventing water filtration. The plan is to replace the brick pavers with soil. Henry asked if there is a standard to stop the installation of brick pavers in tree wells. Sherie Long, Ex-officio Commissioner (Planning and Design Services), replied that there currently isn't such a standard. Sometimes tree wells are not installed as they are approved. Ken said the LDMD has been working with Erin Thompson (Louisville Metro Urban Forestry Coordinator) and Mark to develop planting standards.

Co-Chair Katy Schneider asked if the LDMD has any plans to develop a Silva Cell demonstration site. She suggested this as a project for the garden club. The Wilmington, Delaware Garden club funded a Silva Cell demonstration site in that city's downtown. Henry spoke to a property owner who was open to it, but it's expensive. An audience member suggested that new downtown construction projects implement Silva Cell projects. Henry asked if there was still time to implement a Silva Cell on the 4th street project. Ken said there isn't enough space.

b. Louisville Metro Government's Tree Canopy Initiatives - Erin Thompson, Urban Forestry Project Coordinator

Erin gave an update on Louisville Metro Government's tree canopy initiatives. They have met their goal of planting 10,000 trees. The Mayor is setting a new goal just for 2014 - 5,000 new trees in Louisville. That goal will be changed once we get data back from Tree Canopy Assessment.

The Arbor Day press conference is at 10am on Apr 11, 2014 at Iroquois Park. 300 school children will be in attendance and will be educated about trees. Mesude Duyar, Ex-officio Commissioner (Metro Parks) said they will be planting 50 trees with the help of the students. Everyone is welcome to join.

The Mayor will stop by the Louisville Grows Planting Day on April 12, 2014. This will be a photo-op and meet and greet.

c. Report on Training for Municipal Foresters - Erin Thompson, Urban Forestry Project Coordinator

Erin attended the Municipal Foresters Institute by the Society of Municipal Arborists last month. There were sessions on strategic planning methods, how to encourage community participation and how to deal with the media. She learned what other cities are doing.

V. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee

Katy gave the Policy Committee Report. The Main Committee continued reviewing the tree canopy portion of the Land Development Code changes today. They haven't started the section on increasing the tree canopy requirements. They approved a fee in lieu of compliance, which will go to a special fund allowing the city to plant trees in needed locations. The Urban Forester has been written into the code. This position will influence how those funds are allocated. As the revisions are written, the developers can pick alternate sites instead of paying a fee with the approval of the Planning Department and input

from the urban forester. There was a debate over who would be required to maintain these trees and are suggesting that developers commit to three years of maintenance.

The policy committee is meeting every other week, performing ordinance research. They have a framework and are trying to develop a draft for a new ordinance that fits Louisville. Several items have not received enough votes to proceed as recommendations to the Planning Commission. Those items will still be sent forward to the Planning Commission for consideration. We would like many individuals to speak in favor of these items at the public hearings that will be held in early summer.

b. Projects Committee

Commissioner Paul Cappiello, Co-Chair of the Project Committee, reported that their main project right now is a tree list. The project attempts to list every tree species that would be appropriate in some planting location in Louisville. The list is not limited to species that will work in every situation. The list describes a list of prohibited trees and all trees' ABC designation (A – trees that mature to 50 feet tall or greater; B – trees that mature to 25 – 50 feet; and C – trees that will reach a maximum height of 25 feet). The Projects Committee built on lists collected from Metro Parks, Olmstead, and anyone else they could think of. Ideally, the tree planting list would be adopted by the Planning Commission for the Land Development Code (LDC), all agencies across Louisville Metro Government and all other tree-related groups in Louisville. Henry asked how the list would be implemented. Sherie said it would become an appendix to Chapter 10 of the LDC. Currently, the Chapter 10 of the LDC requires a diversity of species on sites over two acres. An audience member asked if the list includes fruit and nut trees. Paul answered that it lists trees such as peach and pawpaw, but not apple tree species, for example. Another audience member commented that you wouldn't want to plant fruit trees near many developments. He suggested that fruit trees should be prohibited as street trees.

Ken asked if there would be a subset list that would be easier for the public to use. Paul suggested that the group could develop a homeowner's trees planting guide based on the list. Erin suggested that it should include a list of sources of where to get trees. An audience member suggested that it should include what to plant, where to plant and when to plant.

VI. Community Projects Updates

a. Louisville Metro Government Tree Plantings

Erin said the Park Duvalle project is complete. They planted 126 trees. Erin is working on planting 30 trees in Councilman Yates' district. She's looking at partnerships with MSD. She's been approached by other council members with other projects, and she's considering what can be done. This winter has been harsh on the nurseries. They have had trouble filling orders.

Henry asked Erin how much of the \$250,000 she has left to spend. Erin replied that she has \$75,000 - \$100,000 left, but there might be an opportunity for matching.

Mike Hayman said he is working on planting 20-30 trees in Butchertown next fall. Ten trees were planted in Ginny Reichard Park. He easily received permission to plant 6 trees next to Plumbers Supply along Market Street. Story Avenue Park will be an opportunity next fall. Re-Tree Shively will plant 10 trees Thursday, which brings them up to 50. They should reach 61 new trees in Shively Park soon. Erin is helping to match Re-Tree Shively's funds.

Commissioner Monica Orr asked if they can teach people not to put mulch volcanoes around the trees.

Mesude mentioned that the number of trees planted in 2014 will be over 1,000 in Metro Parks.

b. Love Louisville Trees

Valerie Magnuson said Love Louisville Trees had their first youth forestry training, with 20 participants sponsored by Councilwoman Hamilton. Erin helped with the training. This Saturday (3/29/2014), they are

planting 125 trees provided by Brightside at 1094 East Kentucky Street. Registration is from 8:45 to 9:15. It will begin with a brief orientation, followed by tree plantings. The organization has also been working with Kris Sirchio to plant 156 trees on April 12th at West Louisville schools. Some schools will have their summer maintenance crews water the trees. JCPS is providing Gator bags. There is a call to action at the April 8th event – we're going to invite attendees to participate in the April 12th planting event. JCPS is developing an informational sheet for the students. They are interested in building tree education into the curriculum. We Day is run by Kris and Wendy Sirchio. They work with schools to get students involved in environmental action. The PJ will make a small donation to help pay for planting costs. Henry asked Erin to send out email from Valerie to the Commission.

Erin said that Louisville Grows, Love Louisville Trees and Brightside are partnering using capital funds to buy 270 trees. She hopes this encourages more collaboration.

c. Other Updates

Henry said James Bruggers from the Courier Journal called him about invasive vines for a quote. He asked Gina to give an update on this project. Gina said it is federal money and the timeline is 2016 for completion. Henry said the trees will not live to the next growing season because they are so covered up. Gina didn't know exactly when the removal of the vine would take place. There will be about six months of study before any action can take place.

An audience member noted a news article about clearing trees in Clifton Heights for the MSD project. Another audience member replied that the MSD project has been planned for a number of years. It's good for containing water. It will be an underground project, so they have to clear the trees and replant when it's complete. Brian Bingham could come to an LMTAC meeting to talk about it. Maria noted that MSD reduced the size of the project based on the green infrastructure work going on in the area. An audience member mentioned that it's part of the Consent Decree.

An audience member announced that there will be a clean-up at Central Park on April 5th.

Henry noted that he and Mike Hayman talked about having another event at Whitehall to introduce Erin to the public. We should get Metro Council and the LNA to attend.

Henry mentioned that we should try to get trees planted on the new Wal-mart property.

VII. Adjourn

Henry adjourned the meeting at 6:12pm. The next meeting is April 22, 2014 at 5:00pm in the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Boardroom.