



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission

Tuesday, April 22th at 5:00 PM

Air Pollution Control District Boardroom

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Announcements –Henry Heuser, Jr., Co-Chair

The following Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, “Commission” or “LMTAC”) members were present: Henry Heuser (Co-Chair), Katy Schneider (Co-Chair), Allen Steinbock (Secretary/Treasurer), Aaron Boggs, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Betsy Ruhe, Claude Stephens, Robert Eberenz, Jr., as well as ex-officio Commissioners Mesude Duyar, Sherie’ Long, Michelle King, and Mark White.

Co-Chair Katy Schneider brought the meeting to order at 5:11pm. She announced that Nelson Maynard, from LG&E, has been appointed as an at large member of the Commission. Commissioners Todd Eberle and Robb Eberenz have been reappointed.

The Commission held a moment of silence for the recent passing of Michael Smiley, a local landscape architect who contributed immensely to Louisville’s tree canopy and was very involved in Olmstead Parks. Henry is going to write a note to Mike Smiley’s wife, Jodi. Mike Hayman said he can see his influence in multiple sites close to where he lives - Taylorsville Road, the walk around Bowman field and at Seneca Park, for example. He is an irreplaceable man. That reservoir of knowledge is gone.

II. Approval of Minutes – Katy Schneider, Co-Chair

Katy asked for and received unanimous approval of the minutes from last meeting. No changes to the minutes were requested.

III. Old Business

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

Maria Koetter, Commissioner (Office of Sustainability) was unable to make the meeting. Andrea Webster gave her update. Maria is currently drafting the press release to announce that Davey Resource Group has been selected as the vendor for the Tree Canopy Assessment.

b. U of L Graphic design materials to promote trees – Leslie Frieson

Leslie Frieson spoke about the work completed by the Design for Public Issues class at UofL. Last May or June, Leslie contacted Lisa Dettlinger and Monica Orr to discuss the possibility of her students working on a public awareness campaign to educate people about tree canopy issues. The

students developed a campaign called “Treeville.” The website is available and reserved so it can be used. The slogan is: “Complete your sTREEt.” She mentioned that we have to be mindful of the national campaign, “Complete your street” run by a national organization. The students developed billboards, t-shirts, mugs, twister, brochures, fact sheets and more. Erin Thompson is checking on what trees would go on the poster that shows heights of trees. The digital files are available for the LMTAC to use as they see fit.

Co-Chair Henry Heuser asked who can start using these materials. Gina O’Brien mentioned combining it with the campaign in the Mayor’s Office. Katy said the campaign needs to be in the works right now. Commissioner Claude Stephens asked when the public announcement will be released for the tree survey. Erin said it will be released the end of the year, possibly in December. Claude said it’s a reasonable timeframe and a good reason to launch a campaign. Katy said the Tree Action Committee might be interested. We could get a committee together to start to plan the use of these materials. Claude is interested.

Gina said she has met with the Mayor’s Office on the topic. They don’t want to use an independent website. They are trying to balance the needs of “Treeville” and the Tree Action Committee’s “Treevolution” idea. Katy said the LMTAC might be able to raise the money to implement the campaign. Henry asked Gina if she has a committee that does PR. Gina said yes and she is happy to get them involved. Katy said they want a campaign that focuses clearly on trees, not any one organization. Everyone should be working together on this. Gina said the “Treevolution” wouldn’t be just a Brightside campaign; it would involve the action team too.

Henry asked Leslie if the students are giving the materials to us. Leslie said yes and said there are a few students who might be interested in volunteering.

Katy formally thanked Leslie and all of the students for their work. Claude offered that the Commission would draft a letter and distribute it to the students for their portfolios.

Claude and Gina will exchange information and get a committee started.

c. Report on Tree Fund – Allen Steinbock

Secretary/Treasurer Allen Steinbock brought a copy of the bank statement showing a balance of \$10,312 (Appendix A). The LMTAC has not dispersed any money. The Brightside Foundation said they now have a Post Office Box to which donations can be sent:

Brightside Foundation
P.O. Box 70362
Louisville, KY 40270

This address is listed in Appendix B. Katy said we have \$3,999 in another account. We are close to raising the amount of money we need for the Tree Canopy Assessment. We are \$1,200 short.

IV. New Business

a. UofL Tree Planting Update – Aaron Boggs, Commissioner and Assistant Director, Physical Plant Maintenance and Renovations, University of Louisville

Commissioner Aaron Boggs said UofL has wrapped up its 2013-2014 tree planting season. When planting is completed on Friday, they will have planted 109 trees. 54 trees were funded by LG&E through their Plant for the Planet fund in the amount of \$4500. 399 trees have been planted since 2011. IN 2011, 197 were planted with help from MSD. 93 trees were planted in 2012 using funds from an Arbor Day Grant. Most of these trees were planted on the Belknap campus. The downtown

campus is on the priority list for the next planting season. UofL received a Tree Campus USA designation for the fourth year in a row. They have treated all campus ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). One of the biggest challenges Aaron's team faces is that there are multiple groups managing trees on campus (e.g., Athletics, the UofL Foundation, privatized housing). In addition, the downtown campus is chopped up. There are many areas that seem like they are part of campus but they are not managed by UofL staff. It's a challenge to identify which stakeholders manage which trees. Aaron's office can manage trees on UofL property, but it's a lot of effort to go off campus. Aaron's office will continue to work with groups to manage planting sites and selecting and protecting trees during construction.

Mike Hayman and Aaron did survey of trees near the Health Sciences Building. Commissioner Robert Eberenz, Jr. asked if they have an assessment of trees on campus. Aaron said yes. It is part of the Tree Campus USA application. They have all of the stats. The Arbor Day Foundation runs the Tree Campus USA program.

b. LMTAC FY2014 Annual report-- Katy Schneider

Katy will bring the LMTAC's FY2014 Annual Report next month. It's the third year for the Commission. In the first year, they advocated for an urban forester and the city hired Erin Thompson. They advocated for a tree canopy assessment, which will soon be underway. We would never have been able to accomplish our goals without Metro Council. Mike Hayman is going to create a list of the Commission's accomplishments since its inception. They have reinvigorated the projects committee with Erin's and Commissioner Paul Cappiello's help. Ex-officio Commissioner (City Arborist) Mark White is on this committee too. It's a great resource. We have completed a review and recommended revisions to Chapter 10 of the LDC. We are working on an ordinance and we have had a lot of different presentations. We are working with Brightside to shift their mission to focus on trees for beautification and environmental impact. The Commission is progressing towards fulfilling its mission.

V. Committee Reports

a. Policy Committee

Katy reported that today was the last meeting of the committee that is reviewing the revisions to Chapter 10 of the LDC, which is directly related to tree canopy issues. If a recommendation for revision does not get a majority vote than it does not go forward as a recommendation to the Planning Commission. They send a list of approved and unapproved recommend revisions. The biggest disappointment was that we were unable to eliminate waivers. When a developer has a tree canopy requirement, and they cannot meet it, we had hoped to simplify the process by having them pay an in lieu fee. We wanted that to be the only option. Instead, developers also have the opportunity to find their own alternative site to plant the trees. If they go with this option, they have to maintain the tree for three years. The next step is for us to work with Metro Council to get them to approve the changes. The Sierra Club is helping. We will inform you about meetings to attend to show support. The next Planning Commission meeting might be in July. Within the next two months, there will be a written public comments period and a hearing.

b. Projects Committee

Erin said the projects committee hasn't met since March. She is currently working on planting 150 trees along 9th street from Broadway to Old Louisville (Hill St). They have identified the trees and the next step is to plant. Erin will do the maintenance on these trees. She is also working on a project at the Southwest Government Center. She couldn't plant the Burr Oaks in front, so they will be planted in back of the building. There will be other trees out front. She is working on planting trees to shade the parking lot. The helicopter is gone and is not coming back so they can plant that area too. Erin is also working on Rose Farm tree replacements and additions, located across from the Southwest Government Center. Erin is also helping to fund trees in Butchertown (a project

being coordinated by Mike Hayman) and is looking at locations with the Housing Authority. The April 12th planting was a success. It was the result of partnership between Louisville Grows and Brightside. Erin purchased trees for nine different schools. She is anxious about follow-up maintenance. Louisville Grows is working to determine a plan for maintenance. 134 trees were planted at the event. Most were on school property. More trees that were unable to be used on the 12th are being planting on April 29th. Erin is also working with the library to purchase trees for a location they are renovating on York between 3rd and 4th.

Erin has \$40,000 or \$50,000 remaining in her tree fund depending on a project that is in process. Commissioner Cheri Bryant Hamilton said the Capital Budget will carry unused funds forward. If we do not spend all of the money, it should not hurt her chances of getting funds for the next planting season.

The Nature Conservancy contacted Erin. They will provide her with six high school interns and two mentors for a nine day program. They are going to work with Olmstead Parks and Louisville Grows too. Erin explained to Cheri that she will utilize them to work on outreach in some neighborhoods.

Erin said Jim and Mary Wallach donated 10 trees to the city (value of \$1,800.00). Two of the trees are being planted at the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) office (8th and Liberty) and the rest of the trees will be used adjacent to some Bright Sites. The LMTAC appreciates their donation and wanted to formally thank them.

Mesude said her crew has planted almost 1,135 trees this year. The Arbor Day celebration was a huge success this year. The location at Iroquois Park was excellent for 300 students. They planted 75 trees in the park. She formally thanked Mark, Erin and Mike for their help with the event.

Mike said he is working on planting 15 trees at Bellarmine University. The Ecotech tree projects for this year are nearly finished. Ex-officio Commissioner (Metro Parks) Mesude Duyar's crew has been a huge help, especially in Portland, Butchertown and Germantown. They are scrambling to complete all of the plantings because the trees arrived a month late. In Butchertown, Mike is planting over 40 trees. Swift Pork Company is willing to plant trees on their property. Mike said all of his projects are partnerships. There is a lot of cooperation around trees in the city.

Henry asked Mark White if there are any updates on tree grates. Mark said the grates were removed as needed. The engineers are looking into removing the pavers on 2nd street from Muhammad Ali to Liberty. Mark is prepared to water the trees that have been planted this season downtown.

Henry said we need to educate contractors about not putting volcano mulch around trees.

Mark thanked a member of the audience from Greenhaven Tree Care for the good job they are doing trimming trees. Mesude thanked them for treating EAB on ash trees.

Henry wants to host a party at Whitehall to welcome Erin. Mike said we can get Whitehall, we just need an organizer.

VI. Audience Questions

Audience member (Danny Tafel) asked for New Business at the next meeting to address forming a group to review and make changes to state regulations. He is on the Rolling Fields Commission. The state cut down 35 trees along the road and his commission obtained neighborhood development funds to replace the trees, but the state regulations wouldn't allow it.

Steve Kempf said he has been working with Commissioner Amy Johnson to plant 12 trees, including red maple, tulip poplar and sycamore. It's part of the Federal Highway Beautification Funds. Steve planted 560 knockout roses on the Watterson Expressway. The state bought them and Brightside planted them.

An audience member asked what the LMTAC has done with a project discussed to get adults involved in trees. Katy replied that the Commission was hoping to do a citizen forester project that would assign citizens to care for trees within their neighborhood. The Commission didn't have the capacity. Love Louisville Trees implemented a similar citizen forester model where residents aren't always in the same neighborhood as the newly planted trees. We strive to leave someone in charge of the trees we plant in neighborhoods. The Education Committee was working on this, but they need to get started back up again.

Audience member mentioned the March 29th issue of the Courier Journal that covered vines growing on trees. It was written by Jim Bruggers. The audience member asked that the article be put in the minutes (Attachments C and D). He also asked if the LMTAC has studied what other cities have done with their tree ordinances. Katy said yes. They looked a lot at Atlanta and other cities. Henry mentioned Pittsburg and Sacramento.

VII. Adjourn

Henry adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm. Next meeting is May 27, 2014, 5:00 at the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Boardroom.