



## **Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission**

### **Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.**

### **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), Paul Capiello, Allen Steinbock, Maria Koetter, Claude Stephens, Amy Johnson, Betsy Ruhe, Todd Eberle, as well as ex-officio Commissioners Mesude Duyar, Sherie’ Long, and Michelle King.

Co-Chair Henry Heuser brought the meeting to order.

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

Henry asked for and received unanimous approval of the minutes from last meeting.

#### **III. Old Business**

##### **a. Update from the Office of Sustainability: Maria Koetter, Director of Sustainability**

Maria Kotter, Commissioner (Office of Sustainability), reported that the Urban Heat Island (UHI) study, conducted by Dr. Brian Stone, began in January and that Dr. Stone will be visiting Louisville on June 16 and 17. Henry asked what kind of publicity (tv, radio, etc.) Dr. Stone would receive while in town. No one knew if anything like that had been planned. Commissioner Paul Capiello asked who funded the UHI study. Maria replied that the funders were Owsley Brown Frazier and Gill Holland. Commissioner Todd Eberle added that Louisville is one of the only cities in the U.S. conducting such a study. To that, Maria added that Louisville (and the UHI study) will be featured on an upcoming EPA webinar. Henry suggested that Maria should take Dr. Stone to the Courier Journal to be interviewed while he is in town.

Maria then spoke about the Mayor’s new budget (including the budget for tree related issues). She reported that there is \$100,000 allotted for trees in the new budget and that is down from the previous year’s allotment of \$250,000, but up from the original allotment of \$50,000. Erin Thompson said that she had seen the budget and the \$100,000 included tree maintenance. Erin said the \$100,000 budget allocation for new trees is being given to Public Works. Co-Chair Katy Schneider added that the drop in tree funds is a “disturbing trend” and that she is very disappointed

in the decrease in funding. Katy also added that it is imperative that the Commission move quickly in deciding how to fund future projects.

### **b. Update from Urban Forestry Coordinator – Erin Thompson**

Erin began by handing out copies of her Tree Planting Projects progress report (Appendix A). She has been responsible for 801 trees being planted since fall 2013 (she noted that the 9<sup>th</sup> St project on the list is not completed yet). Katy asked what the total budget for planting the 801 trees was and Erin responded that it was \$206,000. Erin added that by mid-June, she will have planted an additional 68 trees and will have spent all but \$24,000 of her total budget.

Erin suggested that there be a community wide tree planting day in November. Henry asked what came of the plan to plant new trees in the Chicasaw area. Erin said that she petitioned for 500 trees, but the total number of trees planted will depend on how many residents want new trees and who can take care of them. She added that interns will be available to take care of some of these new trees. Henry then asked about the tree plantings at Liberty Green and Erin responded that the watering issues there have been taken care of, but also that some of those trees were damaged by the abnormally harsh winter.

Todd asked if Erin had an estimate on what it costs to plant and maintain a tree for a year and Erin responded that a contractor would charge \$750, but the cost for a homeowner to plant and maintain a tree for a year would be significantly less. Todd commented that the new budget of \$100,000 wouldn't provide for a lot of trees at \$750 per tree. Mesude Duyar, Ex-officio Commissioner (Metro Parks) added that the Parks Department's yearly budget for one tree is \$350. She also said that there should be a study done to compare the cost for planting/maintaining for individuals versus the cost for the city. Erin responded that different trees cost different amounts to maintain. Mike Hayman added that tree prices will be going up due to a shortage of 2 inch caliper trees. Mesude added that the Parks Department has "no budget" for tree planting and that all of their tree funds come from grants and MSD. She also said that the Parks Department has a nursery and they try to plant 500 seedlings per year.

### **c. Update on JBS Pork Plant Tree Planting – Jessica Loving**

Jessica Loving reported that JBS will be planting four trees on Saturday, May 31, 2014, and they plan on planting another tree in the fall. The trees will be planted across the street from the plant in a parking lot, providing much needed shade. Jessica said that she has been working with Mike Hayman on this project. Henry thanked Jessica for her report and she added that she would like their project to serve as an example for other local businesses to follow.

## **IV. New Business**

### **a. LMTAC FY2014 Annual Report – Katy Schneider**

First, Katy asked the Commissioners to review the draft annual report in anticipation of adopting said report at the next meeting. Katy displayed the Community Goals of the Commission in a PowerPoint presentation (presentation available upon request). Among the goals are: the need to disseminate information from the forthcoming Tree Canopy Assessment to the public, potential demonstration tree projects, and to protect more of our established canopy. Henry added that Public Works needs to open more downtown tree wells so that downtown trees have a better chance at survival.

## **b. Community Awareness/Education Campaign – Claude Stephens**

Commissioner Claude Stephens said there a lot of projects currently underway. He added that it is imperative that the Commission remains inclusive and communicative with the public. The upcoming public tree campaign meeting will give the community the opportunity to give their suggestions. The campaign should be focused on long term goals and creating a “tree culture.”

Henry asked about the public campaign meeting and Claude said that he wants to make sure everyone has a say and that all the different tree groups in town should be aligned. Sherie Long, Ex-officio Commissioner (Planning and Design Services) added that all Metro agencies should be involved.

Henry then introduced Cadell Walker from the Nature Conservancy. Kendall talked about his group’s “Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities” campaign that funds tree protection/plantings. He added that he is lobbying for Louisville to be included in the campaign. He also added that he will meet with Dr. Stone on June 16.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **a. Policy Committee**

Katy began by talking about the Commission’s recommendations concerning two key issues in the Land Development Code (LDC) Revision process: tree canopy waivers and tree canopy reductions for density. Sherie added that the public comment period for the LDC revisions will run from 5/30 to 6/30. The Commission will vote on these recommendations at the next meeting.

Todd Eberle added that the fee collected from the proposed tree canopy fee in lieu option should go to fund Erin’s projects. He also said that the Policy Committee is getting close to having the Purpose/Policies section of the draft tree ordinance completed.

### **b. Projects Committee**

There was no Projects Committee report as Claude Stephens had already given a report earlier in the meeting.

## **VI. Community Projects Update**

Mike Hayman said that he is looking forward to several good projects in the fall. Katy added that donations to the Louisville Tree Fund should be sent to c/o Brightside. Erin added that donors can also go to the Brightside website to donate.

## **VII. Adjourn**

The next meeting is June 24, 2014, at 5:00pm at the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Boardroom.