



**Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission**  
**Tuesday, October 28, 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), Allen Steinbock (Secretary/Treasurer), Maria Koetter, Claude Stephens, Amy Johnson, Betsy Ruhe, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Todd Eberle, Robert Eberenz, Jr., Cadell Walker, Scott Hannah, Kenya Wade, and Aaron Boggs, as well as ex-officio Commissioners Mark White, Mesude Duyar, Sherie’ Long, and Michelle King.

Co-Chair Katy Schneider brought the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

**a. Rescheduling November and December meetings**

The November meeting is currently scheduled for the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and the December meeting is currently scheduled for the Tuesday before Christmas. The Commission voted to keep the meeting on November 25, 2014, and to cancel the December meeting unless Mike Hayman wanted to host a holiday party at Whitehall. Mike said he is willing to host if someone else will plan the event.

**b. Fund Balance**

Secretary/Treasurer Allen Steinbock reported the current balance of the Louisville Tree Fund as of September 30, 2014 was \$12,127.26 (See Attachment A). LG&E’s \$2,500 went into the city account to pay Davey Resource Group for the Tree Canopy Assessment.

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

Co-Chair Henry Heuser asked for and received unanimous approval of the minutes from last meeting.

**III. Old Business**

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

Maria Koetter, Commissioner (Office of Sustainability), reported that the Office of Sustainability is releasing a Green Infrastructure program that will match funds \$1 for \$1. Each tree takes up about 14,000 gallons of water per year. This Green Infrastructure program is also about reducing storm water.

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

Erin Thompson, Urban Forestry Coordinator, reported that Davey Resource Group has asked for a two week extension. The original deadline was October 30th. The study will tentatively come out to the public by the end of December.

Erin reported the following planned plantings:

- Near Chickasaw Park – 58 trees, which will be planted this Saturday and next Saturday, are being funded by UPS and Keep America Beautiful. This project will focus on planting native species in alignment with Brightside’s Community-wide Native Planting Day.
- Future Farmers of America (FFA) is volunteering to plant 50 trees sponsored by Brown Forman in support of the Brown-Forman Legacy Tree Program. The age of the volunteers is 17 – 19. FFA comes to town every year for their convention. They have to do community service hours while at the convention. In the past, they have helped Brightside with tree clean-ups. This time they are helping to plant trees.
- Near Brown-Forman Campus – 25 trees will be planed beginning next week.
- Rose Farm Park- 40 trees will be planted beginning next week.
- A few neighborhood associations are working with Erin to schedule plantings.
- Main Library - more than 8 trees will be planted
- The Iroquois Library has asked for trees to be replaced.
- Several businesses (e.g., Mercer Transportation wants to have street trees planted next to their building. They will maintain these plantings)
- Community-wide Native Planting Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>, a day organized by Brightside to plant native trees, shrubs and plants. You can find more information at <http://louisvilleky.gov//government/brightside/community-wide-native-planting-day>.

Erin reported that Mike Hayman has been working to maintain the relationship with Ecotech.

On behalf of Herb Fink (Chair of the Old Louisville Neighborhood Council), an audience member submitted a list of dead and dying trees in Old Louisville to Erin Thompson. Erin gave this list to Ex-officio Commissioner Mark White (City Arborist).

Mesude Duyar, Ex-officio Commissioner (Metro Parks), reported on trees being planted in Metro Parks.

- Around 200 homegrown trees will be planted along Northwestern Parkway, Southwestern Parkway, and Shawnee Drive.
- Metro Parks received a \$90,000 grant from MSD to purchase and plant 500 trees. 220 trees were purchased from a local nursery. 250 will be planted in 10 parks located in areas with a combined sewer system, and the other 250 will be planted in Shawnee Park.
- 300 trees will be planted to replace ash trees that have been lost over the past few years.

Overall, Metro Parks hopes to plant 1,000 trees before April 1, 2015. They are introducing more southern species to increase Metro Parks’ tree diversity. They are working on publicity for all of their efforts.

Mark White reported on Public Works projects and the Youthbuild project.

- Public Works has started several streetscapes. They are planting 19 trees on Market Street, 45 on Preston Street (close to Youthbuild), 11 on Breckinridge, 25 along Bardstown Road, and 25 on Preston Street (between Hess Lane and Eastern Parkway).

- For Youthbuild, LG&E had 125 volunteers to help with sidewalk cutouts and tree plantings. Both sides of the street will be planted with trees. MSD is paying for 166 trees in this location.
- Youthbuild is doing more work in the park across from Meyzeek Middle School and are going to give the park to Meyzeek when it's finished. Robin Berk with Youthbuild asked MSD for the money. Youthbuild is responsible for tree maintenance. The trees are 2" diameter trees.
- Other tree plantings are planned in the Council Districts belonging to Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Dan Johnson and Tom Owen. In Tom Owen's District, they are discussing sidewalk cuts along Bardstown Road.
- They are also working on sidewalk cuts downtown.

Commissioner Aaron Boggs reported that they are planting a mixture of 50 shade and ornamental trees on the University of Louisville main campus. To pay for the trees, they are applying to the Plant for the Planet grant from LG&E to obtain a matching grant fund up to \$5,000.

### **c. Nature Conservancy Update - Cadell Walker**

Commissioner Cadell Walker, newly appointed to the LMTAC, reported that Louisville was selected as one of thirteen cities in the United States to join The Nature Conservancy's NEW Urban Conservation Network. Louisville was one of only two cities to get full funding (for two years) to hire a Director of Urban Conservation to lead the Kentucky Chapter's new Urban Conservation Program. There is a posting available now at <http://jobs.nature.org/louisville-ky/urban-conservation-program-director/98185C5EF7DE4428823DCEDB22FCF618/job/> Our preference is to hire someone locally but a national search has been launched to find the best candidate. The Kentucky Chapter's Director Urban Conservation will focus on all urban conservation issues but they will be focused primarily on protecting and growing our tree canopy and our urban heat island. Being a part of The Nature Conservancy's Urban Conservation Network will allow Louisville to borrow expertise within TNC Urban Conservation Network to find solutions to our urban conservation issues. For example, we could contact the Texas Chapter's Director of Urban Conservation in Houston who specializes in storm water and have him/her assist us in thinking through our storm water issues. Being a part of TNC's Urban Network also means that we are officially part of the Conservancy's Healthy Trees Healthy Cities (HTHC) campaign. HTHC focuses on planting new trees and taking care of the trees that we already have; the HTHC Program also manages TNC's nationwide Don't Move Firewood campaign. HTHC has been a part of every major city's tree campaign in the U.S. The HTHC Program will also open Louisville up to national funding opportunities. Henry asked if we could get a press conference for this announcement and when national funding might be available. Cadell said we already have \$25,000 from The UPS Foundation in Atlanta, GA. Henry suggested using it as a matching incentive grant for Metro Council members. Katy asked Commissioner Cheri Bryant Hamilton how to set up matching funds through Metro Council. Cheri said there is a small amount of paper work. Henry asked who would run the program. Cheri said the Commission couldn't do it, but the Office of Sustainability could.

The UPS Foundation has awarded the HTHC Program \$25,000 in funding for a tree planting with UPS employees in Louisville, KY. Cadell spoke with her colleagues Bill Toomey, Director Forest Health for North America, and he offered to help Louisville and partnering NGOs think about a tree campaign for our city. Toomey heads the HTHC Program and has assisted in tree campaigns in major U.S. cities like Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, etc.

## **IV. New Business**

### **a. Update on revisions to the Land Development Code – Joe Reverman and Julia William**

Katy said the new date for the Planning Commission to review the Chapter 10 revisions is November 6th when Katy and Henry will be out of town. They put in a request to have the date moved to November 20th.

Joe Reverman, with Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services presented an update on the text amendment process. Julia Williams, also with Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services, was also in attendance. Joe said there are about 200 individual amendments going through Planning Commission and eventually Metro Council. Chapter 10 includes all of the tree-related changes. They brought copies of the changes (See Attachment B) that will go in front of the Planning Commission either on November 6th or 20<sup>th</sup>. Joe is waiting to hear a final decision on the date; he should know the final date this week. If the Main Committee does not recommend a revision to the Planning Commission, an individual can bring that item to the attention of the Planning Commission. Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services hopes to keep individual challenges at this stage, instead of at the Metro Council review.

### **b. Update from the Louisville Sustainability Council – Emily Chandler**

Emily Chandler, the Interim Executive Director of the Louisville Sustainability Council (LSC), presented on the LSC's mission, purpose, and current projects. The LSC works closely with the Louisville Metro Office of Sustainability. The LSC, which came out of a Bingham class project, aims to connect and provide support for sustainability groups in Louisville. They are a membership based organization and use a collective impact model to create social change. The LSC has a newsletter and calendar of sustainability events. They support five action teams, one of which is the Tree Action Team. This Action Team is open to anyone. Commissioner Claude Stephens serves as the LMTAC representative on the Tree Action Team. Accomplishments of the Tree Action Team include writing a letter of support for The Nature Conservancy efforts and submitting a request for proposals for a tree campaign. Henry said we have a major need now for the tree campaign. Katy wondered why there was an RFP without funding. Emily said the call for proposals was for a logo. The "RFP" term was confusing. Claude clarified that there wasn't any money. The groups were trying to come together under a common goal of using pro bono work. The group has since learned that there is an internal connection to produce graphics. Katy asked why the UofL work wasn't implemented. Claude said there are several groups that are interested in the campaign, so he is working to get all of the different entities aligned.

Emily encouraged everyone to join the LSC. <http://louisvillesustainabilitycouncil.org/become-a-member/>

Claude said the Tree Campaign is the big effort of the Tree Action Team. Getting everyone in agreement is a lot of work. There is nothing that blocks one individual organization from starting the campaign, but Claude is working with the Tree Action Team to make sure that the messaging is coordinated.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **a. Policy Committee**

[No report given. This topic was covered under Old Business above.]

### **b. Education Committee**

[No report given.]

## **VI. Projects Committee**

[No report given. This topic was covered in the Urban Forestry Coordinator report above.]

## **VII. Community Projects Updates**

Erin announced that the Love Louisville Trees Citizen Forestry Program is getting ready to plant 32 fruit trees and they have funds to give away 100 bare root whips. More information is available on the Louisville Grows website. <http://www.louisvillegrows.org/what-we-do/urban-forestry/>

## **VIII. Community Projects Updates**

Douglas White coordinated the planting of 75 trees in the Highland Douglas Neighborhood Association.

Mike Hayman mentioned that Thomas Aberli, principal at Atherton High School, was in the audience. He is the champion for our past and coming plantings at the school.

Tomorrow, Mike Hayman, Claude and Katy are meeting with the superintendent of JCPS about trees. They want JCPS to be the first school district in the US to look at their properties as arboretums.

Jim Mims, Director of Develop Louisville, was in the audience and thanked the LMTAC members for all of their work.

Douglas White (audience member) asked about a study covered on NPR about trees' impact on air quality. The report said that maple trees remove pollutants and oak trees produce negative effects. He asked if anyone heard the study and could comment. Ex-officio Commissioner (APCD) Michelle King said some trees naturally produce Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). We look to reduce VOCs because they are a precursor to ozone. More heat drives ozone production even faster. In terms of planting trees, you have competing results. Trees produce shade, but a few VOCs too. You don't want to plant an oak forest. Different species of oaks have different rates of VOCs. By themselves, trees that release VOCs are not a harmful pollutant but when you combine it with other human impacts, you start to see issues. The official position of the APCD is to plant a diverse species.

## **IX. Adjourn**

The next meeting is November 25, 2014, at 5:00pm in the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Boardroom.

Henry adjourned the meeting at 6:06pm.