



## KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

City of Kirkwood

139 S. Kirkwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

**PRESENT:** Mike Hankins, Mariah Harris, Renee Werner, Chris Molitor, Tanner Craft, Joshua Carron  
- Assistant Urban Forester, Cory Meyer – Staff Liaison,

**ABSENT:** Shane Staten, Nancy Luetzow – Council Liaison

- I. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by **Mike Hankins**.
- II. **Secretary Report:** A motion was made by **Tanner Croft** and seconded by **Renee Werner** to approve the minutes. Minutes from the August 22, 2023, meeting of the Commission were approved unanimously.
- III. **Tree Removal Requests:**
  - a. 1 Pleasant Court - Pin Oak (27 inches) located on W Washington
    - i. This is a full lot development; the tree is located in the ROW; in the way of the planned circle driveway; the tree is not in great shape. A motion was made by **Renee Werner** and seconded by **Tanner Croft** to approve the tree removal request contingent on the replacement of a new tree in the ROW. Approved unanimously.
- IV. **Urban Forester Report:**
  - a. Tree Ordinance Update: Council passed and is in effect 9/22/23.
    - i. All tree studies submitted on/after this date are required to follow the revised/new requirements.
    - ii. If an applicant submitted before this date but wants to utilize the buy-out option, they would need to resubmit the tree study and follow all the new requirements.
  - b. Urban Forest Update: Pruning is underway; will plant replacement trees in ROW in the Twin Pine/Kings Cliff neighborhood in November.
- V. **Activity Reports**
  - a. Junior Treekeepers Program: Subcommittee update
    - i. **Josh Carron** met with Parks & Rec on August 25, 2023, to discuss future programming ideas/options.
      1. Parks & Rec feedback on the Summer 2023 camp:
        - a. The children enjoyed the tree identification activity.
        - b. The counselors found it difficult to focus the children with other groups off to the side; distracting - attention spans were low.
      2. The camp director noted we cannot make changes for Summer 2024 but could begin to develop a new program for Summer 2025. The deadline for a programming outline to be published and advertised would be April 2024.

3. Parks suggested dropping a grade in 2024 to build interest and then target that same cohort in 2025.
  4. The specialty camps typically involve about 40 children.
  5. Parks is excited about the idea of partnering and collaborating with the KUFC. They would want the KUFC to develop the programming and suggest it be more hands-on than the previous one-day camp.
  6. Three Big Takeaways
    - a. What are our goals?
    - b. Keep expectations realistic.
    - c. KUFC members must be passionate and willing to keep the program alive to be successful.
  7. The next sub-committee meeting is Tuesday, 10/3/23, and all KUFC members are encouraged to attend to discuss the interest and topic in more detail.
  8. The old program was scanned, and a link to access it will be distributed before the 10/3 meeting.
- b. Education and Outreach: N/A**
- c. Award and Grant Submittals:**
- i. Tree City, USA. Recertification (Growth award if applicable): Due 12/31/23
  - ii. MDC Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence: Due 12/01/23
  - iii. KUFC Advocate Award: Due 3/31/2024
  - iv. Utility Insert Information: Due July meeting
- d. KUFC Annual Report: Due 1/31/2024**
- e. Event Participation**
- i. Arbor Day 2024
  - ii. Cars and Guitars
  - iii. Green Tree Festival (September)
    1. After Action Report
      - a. The event was very busy this year and considered a great success. The stickers and tree stress balls at the KUFC booth were very popular. Suggestion: have a tree planting volunteer sign-up list at these types of events.

**VI. Old Business:**

- a. Bill Rupert reached out to Mike again and suggested we could create a pamphlet to send to new homeowners.

**VII. New Business:**

- a. Possibility of hiring a Summer Intern.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. made by **Chris Molitor** and seconded by **Tanner Croft**.

Mike Hankins, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_