



## KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

City of Kirkwood

139 S. Kirkwood Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

April 25, 2023

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

**ABSENT:** Tanner Craft, Nancy Luetzow – Council Liaison

- I. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by **Mike Hankins**.
- II. **Secretary Report:** A motion was made by **Mariah Harris** and seconded by **Renee Werner** to approve the minutes. Minutes from March 28, 2023, meeting of the Commission were approved unanimously with the revision.
- III. **Tree Removal Requests:**
  - a. none
- IV. **Urban Forester Report:** Trees are leafing out well, ash trees are declining, and removal is continuing. A new tree-planting contract is underway. They are on track to plant 25-30 trees by mid-May (on top of Arbor Day planting). Another 100 are planned for the fall. The removal contract went out. The pruning RFP went out, and the purchase and stump grinding RFPs are going out by the end of next week. Re the ordinance changes: The city attorney agreed on the grammar changes and frontage of trees percentage towards the canopy total. The attorney also agrees not to grant a clause to allow a variance.
- V. **Activity Reports**
  - a. Junior Treekeepers Program: The parks department has a new summer camp coordinator. **Joshua Carron** will check with the coordinator on schedule. **Chris Molitor, Mike Hankins,** and **Joshua Carron** are the sub-committee focusing on future programming. They plan to meet after the monthly UFC meetings. These sub-committee meetings will be open to the public. **Cory Meyer** is requesting an agenda so can post it 24 hours in advance. Meeting minutes will need to be taken during these sub-committee meetings.
  - b. Education and Outreach:
    - i. Utility Insert Topics: topics are due at the July meeting and come out in Sept/Oct. Ideas: 1) Sycamore Anthracnose (disease information); 2) Bradford Pear (invasive species); 3) city trees versus privately owned; 4) tree pruning. The committee is to bring more ideas to the May meeting.
  - 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

1. The 2023 nomination is Jerry Pence, Associate Professor and Horticulture Program Coordinator at Meremac Community College. A motion was made by **Mike Hankins** and seconded by **Chris Molitor** to approve the nomination. The Commission approved unanimously. **Corey Meyer** will order a plaque.

d. KUFC Annual Report: Due 1/31/2024

e. Event Participation: Arbor Day 2023

i. April 29, 2023 - 9 am-12 pm. Sponsored by Kirkwood Electric. Vendors are secured. The event will take place rain or shine. It will be a busy day with other events happening downtown. **Mariah Harris** volunteered to run the UFC booth; set up is 8 - 9 am; Mariah will arrive by 7:30 am to help coordinate set up. **Mike Hankins** will pick up the UFC booth items and saplings.

**VI. Old Business:**

a. KUFC Shirts: **Mike Hankins** distributed to the members.

**VII. New Business:**

a. **Mike Hankins** mentioned a Heritage Tree Program. The seeds from an existing tree would be gathered in the fall and grown into a new tree. A possible example is the persimmon trees in front of Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn 7:59 p.m. made by **Mariah Harris** and seconded by **Chris Molitor**.

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

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