Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission

A Commission of the City of Kirkwood Missouri

*Supporting, Promoting and Encouraging the Preservation*

*And Enhancement of Kirkwood’s Urban Forest*

2017 Annual Report

For calendar year ending December 31st 2017

*Submitted to the Kirkwood City Administration*

*Submitted: 1-23-2018 to Georgia Ragland via email.*

I **Membership:**

1. The calendar year opened with members**: David Slane**, Chair. **Linda Holekamp**, **Matthew Stacker, Barbara Sandhagen**, **Joe Day**, **Andy Baldridge**, and **Carol Rush**.

KUFC Activity (Leadership included)

City Forester: **Cory Meyer**.

Junior Treekeepers Program: **Linda Holekamp and Barbara Sandhagen.**

Education and Outreach: **Joe Day**

Public Tree Inventory: **Georgia Ragland, David Slane**

Tree City USA/Growth Award Submittals: **Cory Meyer**

Event Participation: Green Tree Festival Booth, Earth Day Booth

II. **Liaison Representation**

**Mark Zimmer** served as Council Liaison for the entire year.

Kirkwood Assistant Chief Administrative Officer **Georgia Ragland** served as Staff Liaison.

III **Kirkwood Arbor Day Ceremonial Tree Planting**: The annual Arbor Day Tree planting and Proclamation was done on April 30th. Mayor Tim Griffin at a City Council Meeting and at the actual ceremony read the Proclamation. The Proclamation was submitted to the KUFC for presentation to the Missouri Dept. of Conservation for the Tree City USA Re-Certification. The actual tree planting and Arbor Day ceremony was done in the tree lawn area of the University of Missouri Extension Office at 132 E. Monroe. Representatives attended the ceremony from the City, Extension Office and general public. A small “oak grove” consisting of 5 small Oak trees donated by citizen Bill Ruppert and one large White Oak donated by KUFC Chair, David Slane were planted.

IV **Requests for Kirkwood public tree removals**:

**February**:

303 George: Request for removal of 4 trees at this address by property owner to make room for new driveway. Request was approved due to poor condition of the trees.

328 W. Rose Hill: Request for removal of large Sweet Gum tree by the property owner. Request was approved due to tree being under power lines.

**March**:

524 S. Harrison: Home builder requested removal of two Persimmon Trees in front tree lawn due to utilities being installed. One of the trees was approved for removal and the other one was denied.

**April**

606 Rosewood: The property owner requested removal of a Sweet Gum tree in the area of a planned driveway. The request was approved.

1761 Janet: Property owner requested removal of a dying tree that is in the way of a proposed new home. The request was approved.

**August**

527 N. Crescent: The representative for the Builder for this property requested removal of a Shingle Oak and an Ash tree in the right of way in front of the proposed new home. The Ash tree removal was approved and Shingle Oak was denied.

V **Kirkwood Street Tree Inventory**: The Inventory is complete and currently in a maintenance mode through constant updates as trees are planted and others are removed. In May, Cory Meyer, City Forester, confirmed and reported that Kirkwood now has the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer. In May of this year, Cory started selecting certain Ash trees for trunk injection treatment for EAB.

VI **Kirkwood Junior Treekeepers**: KUFC members **Barbara Sandhagen** and **Linda Holekamp (**with advice and help from former member **Michelle Storgion)** continued to procure financial support for the program from various local garden clubs, community service organizations and individuals. Materials for the classes were used at the 2 main schools involved in the program… St. Peter School (4th grade) and St. Gerard School (4th grade). St. Peter and St. Gerard continue with very enthusiastic support.

VII **Greentree Festival**: The KUFC members hosted a booth at the festival in September. KUFC members staffed the booth to display urban forestry information and answer questions of the public for the duration of the festival. The plan is to continue this for 2018.

VIII **Tree City USA**: 2017 completed Kirkwood’s 26nd year as a Tree City USA. One of the requirements by the MDC in order to become and remain a Tree City USA is to have an active “Tree Board” similar to the KUFC. In addition, at least $2 dollars per capita must be spent annually on tree maintenance, replacement and education. Kirkwood continues to meet or exceed these requirements.

IV **Tree Code:** In 2017 with the combined efforts of the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission and the City Forester, we were able to make large strides towards the completion of a comprehensive City Tree Ordinance. Currently the draft is under review by City staff as the City Forester makes modifications. The current plan is to have the ordinance presented to City Council as soon as it is completed.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Slane

2016 Chair, Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission