

**KIRKWOOD URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**City of Kirkwood**

**139 S. Kirkwood Road**

**Kirkwood, MO 63122**

**February 23, 2021**

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Mike Hankins, Chris Molitor, Tanner Craft, Barbara Sandhagen, Carol Rush, Renee Werner, Ned Golterman, Georgia Ragland – Staff Liaison, Cory Meyer – Urban Forester.

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** David Weidler

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given, the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission convened on February 23, 2021 via Zoom for a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by **Carol Rush**.
2. Secretary Report: Motion was made by **Ned Golterman** and seconded by **Tanner Craft** to approve minutes as submitted. Minutes from the January 26 meeting of the Commission were approved unanimously.
3. Tree Removal Requests: None.
4. Urban Forester Report: During the past week’s winter weather one car hit a small tree as a result of the snow storm. We are nearing the end of the fiscal year. Pruning will continue until mid-March. Three trees remain on the original list of hazardous trees that need to be removed and they are scheduled to come out in the next week. 153 trees have so far been removed this year. An RFP is going out for tree planting so that the City can buy 75 trees to be planted by a contractor next fiscal year. They will be 1 ½ - 2” in diameter and 6-8 feet high. These will supplement the 75 trees that 150 Trees plants. The contractor will provide follow-up care. Cory plans to speak with Mark Gruber of MDC about a TRIM grant. He would like to use it to get a tree canopy study to see where we might be lacking in tree canopy.
5. ACTIVITY REPORTS
	1. Junior TreeKeepers Program: **Tanner Craft** once again reported that the Kirkwood School District had not returned his calls. There was discussion about moving to a virtual event and perhaps contacting individual science teachers to see what they might be open to for next year.
	2. Education and Outreach: There was discussion about how to celebrate Arbor Day in 2021. Tree City USA has once again waived the requirement for an event in 2021 due to the pandemic. Members expressed a desire to still do a tree planting and proclamation. Cory will speak to the Parks Department about a potential planting at the PAC and to the SBD to see if they still intend to celebrate Earth Day.
	3. Award and Grant Submittals:
		1. Tree city, USA. Recertification (Growth award if applicable) Due 12/31/21.
		2. MDC- Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence: Due 12/01/21.
		3. KUFC Advocate Award – Due 3/31/2021. **Barb Sandhagen** nominated Linda Holekamp. **Chris Molitor** seconded the nomination. All were in favor.
	4. KUFC Annual Report: Due 1/30/2022.
	5. Event Participation: Greentree remains scheduled for September 17, 18, and 19.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS: Carol Rush** provided information on a program in another state on how they were working with home owners to incentivize home owners to remove Bradford Pear trees. It was pointed out that under our state law we could not duplicate such a program. Georgia Ragland announced that she is retiring as of 4/2/21 and introduced David Weidler as the new ACAO and staff liaison.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 23, 2021 at 7:02 p.m. using Zoom.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn 8:07p.m.

Carol Rush, Chair\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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