

**Minutes**  
**Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council**  
**April 21, 2004**

John Volz called the meeting to order.

Present were John Volz, Kris Stone, Mark Leopold, Barry Schwartz, DJ Scully, Don Smyers, Jenny Gulick, Adrian Frazier, Gary Johnson, Thom Davis, Steve Skaggs and Sherry Carran.

John asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the March meeting. Sherry noted that under New Business regarding the Kyles Lane Project that she reported incorrectly on the applicant for the 319 grant. City of Ft. Wright is the applicant, not Northern Kentucky Area Planning. She also noted under Old Business regarding Jenny's report on the Kenton Canopy Study that she had Rt #17, Taylor Mill Rd. as a priority area and it should be Rt #17, Madison Pike. Don Smyers made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, DJ second the motion and the motion was approved.

Mark went over the Financial Report as of 4/21/04. Last reported balance on 3/17/04 was \$4,559.60. Ending balance on 4/21/04 is \$4,267.56. Don Smyers made a motion to accept the Financial Report and the motion was approved.

**Old Business**

Mark reported on the Tree Seminar for Public Workers. Mark said there were 52 paid participants and he thought everything went very well. The Council Members who attended commended Thom Davis on his presentation and commented on the excellent field trip that Kris Stone put together. Sherry said she really liked Robert Rollins', field demo person, style of getting the people involved. Sherry will send him a Thank You card from the Council. Mark said that planning for the next year's event should happen so that it is ready to roll out by November. It was agreed and Mark, John, Kris and Thom volunteered to be on that committee. Mark will be the chair.

Jenny reported on the Kenton County Forest Assessment. Jenny said Davey is ahead of schedule and that field surveys will be beginning.

Jenny also gave an update on the Boone County Phase II project. She has talked to Kevin Costello, Boone County Planning Director, and they will be meeting May 11<sup>th</sup> with Boone County Staff.

John and Kris gave an update on the Certified Arborist Program. John said they have only received (2) applications. John was wondering if there should have been a meeting where the process was explained to interested individuals, so it would not be so overwhelming. Kris presented the program to a 'master gardner' class. John called (40) tree services and (13) expressed interest, but only (1) application was sent in from that effort. Kris noted that this is a busy time of year and a deadline was not on the application. Thom thought that if individuals did not understand the benefits of being a certified arborist that it may be too overwhelming. DJ said Campbell County Extension will recommend only using certified arborist and Don Smyers said that Kenton County Extension gives out a list of certified arborist in the area when people ask about who to call for tree work. Jenny recommended that the period for accepting applications stay open a little longer. John asked that Council members contact people they know who maybe interested. Thom suggested that Ron Wilson, Saturday morning talk show person on 55 WKRC radio who deals with landscaping, could have segments about the benefits of using a certified arborist. Steve Skaggs said he maybe interested. DJ recommended that deadline date be left open until the certified arborist funds were gone. Kris asked for help when it came time to review applications. John, Jenny, Thom and Kris will be that committee. Don Smyers will contact Tom Smith, Cincinnati Tech, to see if he knew of anyone. Don will also try city & county managers. Sherry will ask Kenton County Public Works.

Melissa Jort was going to present her project on Kyles Lane in Ft. Wright but could not make the meeting. Sherry described the project for those who were not familiar. This project was started with one of the Council's pass through grants. It deals with planting trees, to manage stormwater, along the Kyles Lane Interchange of I-75. Melissa will be applying for a 319 EPA grant to implement a section of the concept

plan. Melissa was hoping the Council could give support to the project and maybe some in-kind. DJ made a motion to write a letter of support, and to give technical support when able, to this project. Mark second the motion and the motion carried. Sherry will write the letter.

Regarding the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF), John mentioned that he and Barry will be attending their event at the Drees Pavilion in Devou Park on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Barry noted that he has sent info to the GCF's data base on our grant project with them, the Kenton County Forest Assessment.

Kris asked if he could talk about the Spring Fling in Boone County as he had to leave early. Kris asked if there were any volunteers to man the Council's booth at the Fling and to set up, which would take about an hour. The event goes from 10 am to 3 pm on May 15<sup>th</sup>. John and Sherry said they may be able to and would let him know. Gary Johnson will be filling in for Adrian at the Fling. Kris also announced that Mike Klahr, Boone County Extension - Horticulture Agent, is looking for someone to fill the position of horticultural extension tech at the Arboretum. The position will start July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Barry reported on possible grant opportunities and options for the State Forestry Grant which is due May 21<sup>st</sup>. Barry passed out sheets on each. He noted that he has talked to Sara Gracey to get her input. Sarah said there was a need to have more info on Urban Tree Laws in Kentucky and thought that could be a possible project. Other possibilities for the State Grant are: workshops on building with trees to developer and home builders, and one for planning people; seminar for public workers; contribution to Kyles Lane project; a study on how to gear urban forestry efforts in N. Ky., this would also help with possible fund raising; pass-through grants; and administration. He also thought that we may want to consider Phase II of the Kenton Forest Assessment Study. There was some discussion about having a project where the software CITYgreen could be used. Mark said he could ask Molly, Center for Applied Ecology, to meet with us to explain the software and its capabilities. Barry had a long list of other possible funding opportunities that he has begun looking into.

### **New Business**

Sherry reported on the meeting that she, John and Barry attended with the Northern Kentucky Home Builders Assoc. Mike Enzweiler, Director of Education, was very open to the idea of having a workshop either on the technical aspect of building with trees or from the design aspect. November 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> or November 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> are possible dates for that to happen this year. Sherry mentioned Robin Green, developer of Hidden Creek at the Darby in Columbus, as a possible presenter. Sherry heard Robin at a Livable Landscapes Workshop and thought that kind of presentation was needed for our developers and homebuilders. Sherry will contact Robin to see if she would do it and what her fee would be. Kris has also been in contact with Bill Fountain about a presentation on the more technical aspects, so that is also a possibility. Mike Enzweiler thought that maybe Jenny was doing something with the Land Development Council of the Homebuilders, which she is a member. Jenny said she has nothing planned, so there is not a conflict there.

Gary mentioned there was going to be an open house at Split Rock Nature Preserve, in Boone County, on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sherry mentioned that she met someone from Independence, at a 'walkable community workshop', who was interested in starting a tree board for the city. Don Smyers said he would contact that person to see how we could help.

Barry begged everyone for their timesheets.  
Next meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Carran