

Minutes
Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council
August 18th, 2004

John Volz called the meeting to order.

Present were John Volz, DJ Scully, Don Smyers, Don Girton, Barry Schwartz, Jenny Gulick, Gary Johnson, Thom Davis (arrived later in the meeting), and Sherry Carran.

John asked if there were any corrections to the July minutes. Don Girton made a motion to accept the minutes, Gary second the motion and the motion was approved.

Mark Leopold was not able to be at the meeting but did send copies of the Financial Report as of 8/18/04. Lat reported balance on 7/21/04 was \$2,259.95. Ending balance on 8/18/04 is \$37,200.00. DJ made a motion to accept the financial report, Don Girton second the motion and the motion was approved.

Old Business

Regarding the Strategic Plan: Barry had passed out copies of the Plan in draft form at the last meeting and asked for review and comments. He was hoping that the Plan would be given approval at this meeting. DJ recommended that the Plan be mailed out to all the members and be voted on at the next meeting. All agreed.

...Jenny gave an update on the Kenton County Forest Assessment. She reported that the GIS data is being refined and that she will probably begin on the summary in September.

...The Boone County Study was presented to Boone County Planning Commission and was well accepted. The Commission thought there would be opportunities to encourage the use of the data. Kevin Costello, Boone County Planning Director, asked for a copy of Jenny's power point on the Study. Jenny noted that the presentation to the 'green groups' had been changed. It will be Monday, September 13th (not be September 20th) at Boone County Extension Center, 6 – 7 pm.

John brought up the 'arborist training program'. The dates are October 20th & 27th at the Florence Government Center. Jenny noted that Bill Fountain will be leading the program, the agenda is set, and speakers and topics are lined up. The fee is \$20 pre-registration or \$25 at the door. This will be the fee for both days including lunch. There will be no reduction for attending only one day. The space at the Government Center can hold 62 people.

Don Girton reported on a forest survey completed in Kentucky. The study showed that there has been a reduction of 700,000 acres of forest since 1988. Northern Kentucky showed a 10% reduction. Don noted that there is an increase in the quality of the forest in Central and Western Kentucky.

Barry reported that a proposal has been submitted for the 2005 Urban & Community Forestry Regionally Significant Projects. The project is proposing a conservation development project where the Council will partner with planners and a developer to design a conservation development. Barry passed out copies of the submitted grant. Barry noted that the submitted EPA grants were not awarded. He is currently working on charting available grants. This means that he is listing possible grant opportunities and their due dates so that he can organize a timeline for his proposals.

Sherry noted that everything is a go with the November 11th dinner presentation with the Northern Kentucky Home Builders Association. A letter has been sent to Robin Green the presenter. Sherry said that promotion of the event will begin in September.

Regarding Council's administration, John said he would talk to Mark Leopold to see what possibilities exist to work with Mark. This would be aside from Mark's work with the Center for Applied Ecology. We will also need to get quotes on hosting web sites.

DJ passed out copies of the August Newsletter. DJ said the next will be in early October. Don Girton said he thought the article on what is happening in the different cities was a nice touch. Jenny advised turning in info on upcoming events so that it can be worked into the next newsletter. Barry asked about getting the Strategic Plan in the newsletter. Don Smyers suggested doing it more from a PR angle.

DJ said that work should begin on the November 4th Awards Dinner. John said he will ask about the Drees Pavilion as a place for the event. DJ asked about featured speakers. Sherry suggested Kevin Costello from Boone County Planning. It was agreed that Kevin would be a good presenter and that it would be good to then get someone from Campbell County and Kenton County.

...DJ made an announcement that Clemson University is doing a publication on woodscaping and that the Council's booklet on woodscaping has been selected as one of ten that will be featured in the publication. He thought it would be good to note this at the dinner.

...Barry suggested announcing the pass through grants that were awarded for the upcoming year.

Don Girton announced that on September 9th, the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) will be holding a meeting at Natural Bridge on Sustainable Forestry in Kentucky. On September 23rd, there will be a meeting of the Kentucky Forest Health Task Force. This effort will be dealing with policy making. The first step will be dealing with three major topics as related to Forestry: insects, disease, and invasive plants. Don noted that North Carolina has hired 13 foresters just to deal with the Southern Pine Beetle.

Don Girton suggested that regarding the Kenton Canopy Study that any printed reports should recognize the support of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF). He also thought that they could be recognized at our Awards Dinner. If their logo is needed he said to contact Beth Reiter with GCF.

Gary announced that funds are available for him to attend workshops or conferences. He would appreciate any information on events that would contribute to his knowledge and networking in urban forestry.

Jenny passed out the agenda for the September 24th meeting of the Ohio Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture. The main topic will be 'Trees and Utilities'. Jenny was asked if this focus was because of the huge power outage that happened about a year ago. Jenny noted that the power outage may have started because of a tree on a power line but that the real cause was systemic within the utility grid work.

Following this meeting the Council will be visited by the Kentucky Division of Forestry for a field trip of some of the Council's projects. A display was set up in the meeting room for the visitors and then several project sites will be visited.

Formal meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Carran