

**Minutes  
Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council  
February 18, 2004**

John Volz called the meeting to order.

Present were John Volz, Kris Stone, Mark Leopold, DJ Scully, Don Girton, Don Smyers, Jenny Gulick, Gary Johnson, Thom Davis, and Sherry Carran.

Jenny asked if she could go first with her draft presentation on Phase II of the 2002 Boone Canopy Study - Public Health and Safety Function Analysis and Development of Guidelines for Environmental Protection.

--- She gave an overview of the project. Example of data inventory: 36% of Boone County supports canopy cover. 41% of that canopy cover is located along riparian zones and 26% is in floodplains; canopy covers in these areas are especially important for public health and safety. There was some discussion on the critical areas assessment. She then went on to recommendations.

--- DJ asked if the findings had a chance to be incorporated into Boone's Comprehensive Plans. Don Smyers said he would like to see a comparison of Boone County before and after this report as a way to record the impact of the study. Don Girton thought the findings could be considered in planning decisions. Kris thought we should begin promoting the study to focus groups like the Boone Forestry Commission. Mark asked if value of the canopy is connected to safety and health. Kris suggested an overlay of the critical area map on to the future land use map to show relationships to physically restrictive areas.

--- The presentation stirred good discussion. Jenny noted our suggestions and comments. She asked if someone could review the changes when ready. Don Girton was chosen as the best person to do so.

John asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved.

Mark went over the Financial Report as of 2/18/04. Last reported balance on 1/21/04 was \$1,068.00. Ending balance on 2/18/04 is \$4,731.44. Don Smyers made a motion to accept the Financial Report, Don Girton second the motion and the motion was approved.

**Old Business**

John reported that the final interview for executive director's position was completed that morning and he asked Don Girton to bring everyone up to date.

Don said there were about 25 applicants which then were narrowed down to 3 which we interviewed. There was going to be a second interview with the applicant that seems to have the best fit. Mark was asked if could check the references. At the earlier Officer's meeting, there was discussion on who would be the point person with the new director. Don Smyers offered to be that person. It was agreed to have a meeting to work out some of the details. Don Girton and Sherry offered to help Don. They will meet on Friday, Feb., 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at the Durr Annex.

Mark gave an update on the Tree Seminar for Northern Kentucky Public Workers. It will be held Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Florence Government Center. Kris will be speaking to the N. Ky. Public Workers' next meeting, so he will have opportunity to pass out flyers.

John reported on the Arborist Certification Program (ACP). Ohio is having an ISA testing on November 4<sup>th</sup>. John thought that the Council could sponsor 6 – 7 people with an estimate of \$375 per candidate. John said there maybe a need for the Council to help some of the

candidates prepare for the test. Gary asked how the selection process will work. John noted that he is preparing the applications and there will be certain requirements that still need to be decided. There will be applications for the ACP at the Public Workers Seminar. Thom suggested sending information on the program to the tree industry.

Kris reported on 'Trees in Our Communities Grants Program'. The committee (John, Kris, Don Girton, Geoff Egbers, Steve Skaggs, and Sherry) is recommending grants be awarded to: Bellevue - \$2,500, Cold Springs - \$500, Covington - \$2,000, Ludlow - \$2,500, and Southgate - \$2,500. There is only \$10,000 available for the pass through program, so two proposals had to be eliminated and they were Lakeside Park and St. Henry. There was some discussion on the grading process. Don Smyers noted that he had worked with Lakeside Park and St. Henry's on their proposals, so he had an interest in why they were not selected. It was explained that the committee graded the five selected proposals higher because they had more elements that addressed the criteria. Three of the awarded grants were for developing program management, one had a strong educational component, and one was a unique demonstration project on how trees may bring identity or pride back to a community. Don Girton made a motion to accept the recommended grantees, Jenny second the motion and the motion carried. Some of the selected projects would need some guidance. Kris volunteered to help Ludlow, and DJ was asked if he could help Cold Springs and Southgate. John will write letters to Bellevue and Covington. Sherry will write Lakeside Park and St. Henry.

### **New Business**

John reported on the Home Products Expo Show in which the Council participated. After the last meeting, Geoff Egbers contacted DJ that space at the Expo was being donated to the Council if we were interested. This donation has an in-kind value of \$800. Council members were asked if they were interested and could they volunteer to man this space. DJ was able to work up a time schedule for volunteers to work the week long expo. This was a new kind of event for the Council, so John asked for comments on what members thought. Jenny thought the event was good for the Council. She said there was good traffic and good questions. She mentioned that one person told her that her answer to his question was worth the admission that he paid. Don Girton estimated that the Council's booth had about 500 visitors and passed out about 2000 pieces of literature. Sherry noted that it was also good for the Council to hear some of problems that people are having with their trees and home sites as this could help us gear some of our future outreach. Gary said he had heard that homes with established trees have a higher value and asked if that was true, why is there not more homebuilding with that in mind. It was explained that more detailed site planning needs to happen, including knowing how to protect trees during construction, and these kinds of efforts need to be promoted. DJ mentioned that the Council may be working with the N. Ky. Home Builders Assoc. (NKHBA) on such a project. Sherry will be calling Dan Dressman, NKHBA.

John asked if there was any other business. Thom announced that there was a meeting on Tues., Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> where environmental groups were asked to participate by providing information about their organization. The meeting was being sponsored by the Earth Institute in an effort to build relationships within the environmental community. Thom asked if no one else from the Council was going, could he represent us. Mark made a motion to elect Thom as our representative to this meeting, DJ second the motion and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Carran

