

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

John Volz called the meeting to order.

John introduced and welcomed new member Tom Davis, Covington Urban Forester. We went around the table introducing ourselves.

Present were John Volz, Kris Stone, Mark Leopold, DJ Scully, Don Girton, Gary Johnson, Adrian Frazier, Geoff Egbers, Don Smyers, Jenny Gulick, Tom Davis, Melissa Jort, and Sherry Carran.

John asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November meeting. Don Smyers made a motion to accept the minutes, Don Girton second the motion and the motion was approved.

Mark went over the Financial Report as of 1/21/04. Balance as of 11/19/03 was \$1,658.86. Ending balance as of 1/21/04 is \$1,068.00.

He then went over the 2003 Financial Summary. Beginning balance 1/1/03 was \$2,583.76; total 2003 receipts were \$50,197.42; total 2003 expenditures were \$51,397.59; ending balance 12/31/03 was \$1,383.59. Mark explained the figures in red were still items that needed to be reimbursed and that would happen as soon as the funds came in from the Ky. Div. of Forestry. Mark also explained that he turned in all of his in-kind hours that he had been holding. Other member's in-kind, of \$9,400, was held to apply to 2004. Don complimented Mark on his good work and noted that it appeared we were receiving \$2 of in-kind value for every dollar received from the Ky. Div. of Forestry. DJ made a motion to accept the Financial Report and the 2003 Financial Summary, Don Girton second the motion and the motion was approved.

**Old Business**

Mark reported on the Tree Data Base. The original project was approved for \$2,500 and later approved for additional funding. The project to date has a cost of \$6,127.75. The Data Base is up ([www.nkyurbanforestry.org](http://www.nkyurbanforestry.org)) and needs input from the Council. A meeting with extension agents will be taking place to do the networking phase. Over 400 trees are listed. Graphics are being provided by Mark's brother, Donald Leopold who is a professor at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York, Syracuse. NKU may need to purchase a server to deal with all the graphics. With budget cuts at NKU, the Center for Applied Ecology has approached NKU about a grant to deal with the querying of the Data Base. Don Smyers asked about a licensing agreement on copy credits of photos. Mark's brother is okay with his graphics being used for the Data Base but may need some written agreement for protection from other users.

Jenny reported on Phase II of the Boone Canopy Study. This phase deals with conclusions and recommendations. Jenny noted that Don Girton, John, DJ and Sherry were reviewing the final draft and a meeting was going to take place to make suggestions. Jenny thought the final report would be ready in February.

Don Smyers reported on the Council's Strategic Plan that was adopted May, 2002. He asked the Council what they thought the next steps would be. DJ suggested that the Council relate its short term plan and its 2004 efforts to the Strategic Plan. John noted that the job description for Director of the Forestry Council relates to the Strategic Plan.

Don Girton reported on the Kenton County Forest Assessment Bids. He gave the background on the project and noted that the Council had received \$55,000 in grant funding for the project. Bid applications were sent to 6 parties but only 2 have been received, Davey Resource Group and NKU's Center for Applied Ecology (CAE). Don explained that the review committee met before this meeting and were recommending Davey Resource Group for the contract. After sorting through in-kind, it came out that Davey's bid was \$45,175 and the CAE's bid was \$55,000. Don did ask Jenny why Davey's bid was lower. She explained that the process and cost were gone over a number of times and that Davey thought they could do it for that amount. Sherry noted that it was a hard decision to make. She explained that having Davey doing the Kenton Canopy Study was a good fit with the National Forestry Grant studying the Banklick Watershed. She also explained that she felt CAE was a local group providing a needed service for the Northern Kentucky community and that they should be supported. She also felt that because CAE handles the majority of Ky. Div. of Water mitigation projects in this area that having them do the Canopy Study would give them a better feel for what areas needed to be restored. Gary Johnson noted that he thought Davey should get the bid because it was the lowest. Don Girton made a motion to award the bid to Davey Resource Group, Gary second the motion and the motion was approved.

Melissa asked that when the Kenton Canopy Study begins that the Banklick corridor be a priority because of the Banklick Study. Sherry also suggested the area involving the Taylor Mill Road improvement project. Don Girton noted that request need to go through the Council and all agreed.

DJ showed the Public Service Announcement (PSA) that Emily Widmer and the N. Ky. Telecommunications Board had produced for the Council. Everyone was very pleased and noted that Emily's voice added to the PSA and that she had done nice work on the piece.

### **New Business**

The Tree Seminar for Public Workers is scheduled for Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Florence Government Center. Green Haven from Louisville will be doing a hands-on tree pruning demonstration, at the Boone Arboretum. Mark attended a Public Workers meeting in December to promote the seminar and to get input on what they would like to see.

John reported on the position of Forestry Council Director. He explained that the Council was advertising for this position since the Council was not sure how Emily would fit into the full time position. He explained that he, DJ and Mark had met with Emily and all records had been received from her. Reviewing of applications can begin Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee will set a date to begin the review process. Jenny asked, "Would the Director be selected by the March?" John thought that was possible.

Mark had to leave early, so he asked if he could bring up the topic of Forest Conservation Issues. Mark reported on a situation in Ft. Thomas because he serves on the Ft. Thomas Tree Commission. Recently a developer submitted plans to develop a hillside into a residential development. Ft. Thomas requires that a tree inventory be done for new development and there are hillside development guidelines but this did not provide the legal basis to protect the site. Mark explained that the site in question was significant because of the quality and quantity of tree cover. Mark expressed the need, not just for information like tree inventories, but also for promotion of the value of forest conservation. Communities need the legal basis for turning down a development if there is proof that it is not good for the over all health and safety of the community and of neighboring communities. He noted that development can happen on physically restrictive sites, because of today's technology. He also noted that nothing was in place to manage development on land that was physically significant for its natural resources. Geoff asked Mark to explain and noted that if the developer was conforming to zoning requirements the City should not come in, after the fact, and change things. Mark agreed and said that was the point he was trying to make. DJ asked what role should the Council take. It was agreed that this needed further investigation.

DJ reported on the Newsletter. He passed out a draft of the next Newsletter that he, with help from Campbell County Extension, put together. He thanked those who contributed articles. He asked that the Council proof read it and approve expenditure of \$300, so that it may go out in February. Geoff asked about the possibility of doing an e-mail newsletter to save on cost and to reach more people. It was agreed that was a good idea. Don Girton made a motion to approve the cost of \$300 for printing and mailing the newsletter, John second the motion and the motion was approved.

Melissa reported on the National Forestry Grant Project in the Banklick Watershed. N. Ky. Area Planning has a public meeting planned on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at Summit View Middle School. Jenny, Larisa Keith and Marc Hult will be doing presentations, and then there will be break outs into focus groups. Jenny noted that the web site for the project is [www.facilitykeeperonline.com/banklick](http://www.facilitykeeperonline.com/banklick)

### **Other Business**

Don Girton reported on the 'State of Forest Health Task Force'. Kentucky Woodlands Association expressed a need for better communication. He noted that the President's Forest Initiative for 2004 has Interior Appropriations of \$35,000,000. Current funding will be focusing on alternative methods for affective spending.

... Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> - Green Industry's Expo at the Sharonville Convention Center

... Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> - ISA conference in Columbus, Ohio

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Carran