

**Minutes  
Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council  
June 16, 2004**

John Volz called the meeting to order.

Present were John Volz, Kris Stone, Mark Leopold, Barry Schwartz, DJ Scully, Don Smyers, Don Girton, Jenny Gulick, Mike Klahr, Geoff Egbers, and Sherry Carran.

John asked if there were any corrections to the May minutes. Jenny made a motion to accept the minutes, Don Smyers second the motion and the motion was approved.

Mark went over the Financial Report as of 6/16/04. Last reported balance on 5/19/04 was \$4,136.68. Ending balance on 6/16/04 is \$2,322.65. Don Smyers made a motion to accept the report, Mike second the motion and the motion was approved.

**Old Business**

... Jenny reported on the Kenton County Forest Assessment. She said the study is ahead of schedule and thought it would be completed by the end of October. Jenny said the next step of associating ground truthing with the digitizing will be a big task. Don Girton asked if there have been any big surprises. Jenny noted that there are not many large crown areas in the County.

... Jenny also reported on the Phase II of the Boone County Forest Assessment. Kevin Costello, Boone County Planning Director, has two possible dates for a presentation to Boone County Planning Commission, August 4<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm or September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Boone County 'green groups' have not been meeting very much over the summer so scheduling a presentation to them has been a problem. Jenny asked for our suggestions on a one page handout that is a summary of the study that will be used in outreach. DJ thought the Council's website should be on the handout.

... Jenny passed out copies of an article written by Dan Dressman, Vice President of the Home Builders Association of Northern Kentucky. The article addressed the Boone County Planning Commission turning down a development that was attempting a conservation type development. Some of the Council said they would like to know more about the proposal and why it was turned down.

John reported on the Certified Arborist Program. John said that three additional applicants have been accepted. John and DJ met with the three who are with Kenton County Public Works. DJ noted that if any of the selected individuals have to retake the exam, but have past a substantial part of it, that the Council will help them train for the retaking. John noted that he has been having trouble getting help from ISA (International Society of Arborist). There was discussion about the training for taking the exam which will cover twelve domains. Bill Fountain and Dave Leonard could do a whole day of training. The question was asked if others could attend the training. It was thought yes for a charge to be decided. Kris noted that KAA (Kentucky Arborist Association) would like to see more certified arborist in Kentucky and may help with the training day. Jenny thought the Florence Government Center as a good place to hold the training session, and that September or October as a good time. Kris asked about mentors for our selected candidates. John said he may help the three from Kenton County Public Works.

John reported that he received a letter from Larry Klein, Ft. Wright City Manager, saying the Kyles Lane Project is on hold. Don Girton noted there was a meeting with Toyota regarding contributing funds to this project. After this meeting it was decided that more contributors were needed and that this would take time. Sherry reported that Melissa Jort, Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission, will be doing a presentation on the Project at a Kentucky State Transportation Seminar.

... Barry reported on the 2005 grant proposal to Kentucky Division of Forestry. The Council should hear in about a week if the proposal, asking for \$73,000, has been accepted. Mark asked if Council Members could have a copy of the actual grant application. Barry said he will see to that. Barry noted that a letter requesting an extension for the current grant, and listing any changes, has to be submitted. Barry passed out an outline dealing with Logic Model for 2004 Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program. The outline works as a guide for accomplishing task during the current year.

... Barry noted that the due date for the Southern Region Forest Grant Proposal is due October 1<sup>st</sup>. He mentioned a low impact development model as a possible project with that grant. Sherry said Local Alliance for Nature and Development (LAND) is thinking of such a project and will ask about partnering. Barry and Sherry mentioned a grant opportunity with EPA dealing with water quality. Sherry said there were two possible projects that may fit the Council's objectives. There was only a week left to submit a pre-proposal and she asked if it would be okay to go forward. She noted that partnering would most likely be needed. The Council agreed to give it a try.

Sherry reported that Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is the date selected for a workshop on 'building with trees' with the Homebuilders. This will be an evening presentation with dinner being served. It will be for homebuilders and the Land Development Council of the Homebuilders. Sherry still needs to confirm the date with presenter, Robin Green of Hidden Creek at the Darby outside of Columbus, Ohio.

John asked Mark about the IRS reporting. Mark said Steve O'Brien recommended that an amended return was not needed and that just highlighting the math changes would work to correct the math footing error.

### **New Business**

Jenny asked about the whereabouts of the disk for printing the Woodscaping Booklets. Mark was hoping to put this on the Council website but has had trouble locating Margie Powers who last had the disk. Lorita Wadsworth was mentioned as someone who may know. Sherry knows Lorita and will contact her. Mark asked Sherry about doing the same for the booklet 'At the Waters' Edge'. Sherry will check on that. Jenny also asked about putting the Council's newsletter in a PDF format to put it on the website. She mentioned that Ohio Division of Forestry has a newsletter that is on their website. She noted that this newsletter is very good and she liked how they have sections highlighting community efforts in urban forestry.

Barry and Don Smyers addressed the need to update the Council's Strategic Plan. Don Girton, Don Smyers, DJ, Sherry, John, and Geoff agreed to be on a committee to work on this.

DJ noted that the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Cincinnati. Traps are being set in Northern Kentucky. Geoff noted that the trees on the hillsides along the Ohio River, east of Madison to Carrollton, appear to be dead. He wondered if anybody knew anything about this.

Don Girton mentioned that the State has established a State Forestry Health Task Force. John O'Bricky is the State Entomologist. He also noted regarding national appropriations that there seems to be more political support for Urban Forestry Programs. He thought continuation of visibility for urban forestry issues very important.

Barry mentioned that there is a grant opportunity dealing with native plant conservation that may have interest for one of the other environmental groups. <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/npci.htm>  
Barry asked for time sheets.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Carran

