

Minutes
Northern Kentucky Urban & Community Forestry Council
March 17, 2004

John Volz called the meeting to order.

Present were John Volz, Kris Stone, Mark Leopold, DJ Scully, Don Girton, Don Smyers, Barry Schwartz, Jenny Gulick, Melissa Jort, Tom Kruer, Thom Davis, and Sherry Carran.

John asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February meeting. Don Girton 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 3/17/04. Last reported balance on 2/18/04 was \$4,731.44. Ending balance on 3/17/04 is \$4,559.60. Mark also explained some of the details to the added cost to the Tree Data Base. Mark's brother, Donald Leopold – Prof., State Univ. of N.Y., Syracuse, figures he will have about 10 hours of work in sorting through his slides. At \$100 an hour, this comes to \$1,000. It will take about another \$2,000 worth of hours, NKU's Center for Applied Ecology, to scan the slides into the data base. DJ made a motion to accept the Financial Report, Don Smyers second the motion and the motion was approved.

Old Business

John introduced Barry Schwartz, the new Development Director for the Council. We went around the room introducing ourselves. Don Smyers, who will be guiding Barry in this new position, explained the hiring process and the contract. Priority task for Barry will be:

- 1) Acquisition of financial resources for programs and administration through grantsmanship.
- 2) Development and maintenance of marketing, public outreach, public relations, and media relations efforts.
- 3) Administration and volunteer coordination and organizational assistance to Council and Council committees.

The Contract covers 3/17/04 through 1/15/05. Tom Kruer asked if a goal amount was set for grants. DJ explained that there would be a subjective way to measure outcomes. Don Smyers said there would be a control implemented regarding function and feedback. Tom thought that a target for grant proposals and grants received would be helpful. Tom also suggested the Greater Cincinnati Foundation as a valuable resource in grant leads. He noted that the Foundation has money invested in the Council therefore they have an interest. ...Don Girton noted a meeting he attended that was for grantees of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation's Funds. The meeting was to guide the grantees with outcomes and measures of their grant projects. He mentioned a quote that was used at this meeting, "*Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted.*" - Albert Einstein. ...Barry said he will try to have a progress report every month and that he will develop a needs list. ...Jenny suggested looking at the National Tree Trust web site. She said they have reorganized and are offering ½ million in grants. ...Don Smyers made a motion to authorize John to sign the contract with Barry, Don Girton second the motion and the motion carried.

Mark reported on the *Tree Seminar for Public Workers* which will be tomorrow. So far, there are 52 registrations which will be the best turn out to date for this event. Mark wanted to know who from the Council would be attending; about 6 members responded. DJ suggested that Rick Lundman be asked about the value of in-kind from Florence. Don Smyers will make sure copies of Div. of Forestry State Grant applications are available. Mark noted Kris's help in pulling everything together, including the demonstration part in the afternoon. DJ thought that the Newsletter was working to get the word out. He asked if anyone had the sign-in sheet from the 'annual meeting event', as he wanted to make sure all the names were on the mailing list. Mark will check to see if he has it.

Jenny reported on the progress of the Kenton Canopy Study. Some areas have already been delineated. The Banklick watershed, and Rt. #17 (Madison Pike) corridor are priority areas because of the studies being done in those areas.

Jenny gave an update on the Boone Forest Assessment Phase II Report. She made some revisions after hearing the Council's input and those were mailed to the Executive Committee for comment. Don Girton was the only one who replied, so she assumed everything was okay with the rest of the Committee. She has talked to Dave Ceohegan, Boone County Planning, about overlaying the 'critical canopy layer' with the 'physical restrictive' layer and that will be happening. ...She asked, who should receive a formal presentation of the Report. Don Smyers wanted to know if comments would be requested at these presentations. After some discussion, it was recommended that presentations would be given to: 1) Boone County Forest Commission and Boone Conservancy, combined (feedback would be asked for at this meeting), 2) Boone County Planning, 3) Boone County Fiscal Court (Kris noted that these meetings are aired on cable TV, so it would reach the general public), and 4) Northern Kentucky Area Planning. Melissa suggested asking Dave Geohegan for assistance in asking Boone County Fiscal Court. ...Mark asked, "Can the quality of the forest be tied to the Phase II Report. How can ecological be related to public health & safety?" He noted that this opportunity of reaching a large audience should be used to relay the larger picture. Don Girton suggested acknowledging the ecological with a few slides. Jenny said the slides are there, she just needs to talk about them more. Tom Kruer noted that the 'green crowd' wants all the info, the 'planning people' need the facts, and that fiscal courts usually get interested later on. Mark thought the ecological significance should be at the conclusion of the presentations. Barry asked if there were environmental overlays. Sherry mentioned that the Boone County Historical Society is very involved and a tie into the 'natural heritage' could be beneficial.

John reported on the Certified Arborist Project. He will speak tomorrow, at the Tree Seminar for Public Workers, about the project and applications will be available. On the application there will be the question, "Why do you want to become an arborist?" This will help to get a feel for the applicant. It is going to cost about \$375 to put each candidate through this process. There will be about a 6 hour day of prep. The 'prep class' could be in October with the testing date in November. Jenny noted that the 'prep class' could also be for interested individuals. Kris said there would be a chance to get CE's (Credited Educational Hours). Jenny liked the idea that whether they passed or not, the candidate would give 25 hours to projects that fit the Council's mission. DJ asked when candidates would be selected. It was thought that April 30th would be a good application deadline. DJ will have a notice in the April newsletter going out. Don Smyers asked if there would be mentors. Kris offered his help and Jenny said there are others who would help if asked. Kris said the Kentucky Arborist Assoc. is all in favor of this Project because of the real need. Don Smyers made a motion to role the Project out, Don Girton second the motion and the motion carried.

New Business

Melissa gave an update on her Kyles Lane Project that was started with funding from a Council's 'Trees in Community' pass through grant. The project has been designed by Human Nature, Landscape Architectural Firm. It is hoped that the concept will become reality and thereby demonstrate how trees can reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality. Melissa has been working with Larry Klein, Ft. Wright City Administrator, to move this project forward. Melissa has also been encouraged by the Ky. Div. of Water to apply for a 319 grant. This grant is an effort supported by the Clean Water Act that funds projects that address non-point source water pollution. The city of Ft. Wright will be the applicant, Sanitation District #1 (SD #1) has agreed to monitor the site, Paul Hemmer is offering support, and Ky. Div. of Transportation has given approval on the project design. Melissa asked if the Council could lend support and could a Council rep. attend a meeting Tuesday, March 23rd at 3 PM, at N. Ky. Area Planning to discuss the Project. Don Smyers was concerned that not enough info regarding soils was part of the project. Melissa stated that soils samples have been taken at the site which showed the area to be mostly fill. This means that soil amenities will be needed. DJ thought this project could give the needed facts that SD #1 needs to address forestry in their regulations. Tom Kruer thought it important for the Council to be a part of and to take the lead in innovative practices. The total project has an estimated cost of \$800,000 which includes all four quadrants of the interchange. For grant purposes, only two phases will be addressed at this time. The 319 grant will fund 60%

of the project, meaning a 40% match is needed. DJ made a motion that the Council gives what support we can to this project, Don Girton second the motion and the motion carried.

Jenny reported that at SD #1's Outdoor Educational Site, 81 trees are being planted as part of their Urban Forest. Jenny is a liaison to this effort and would appreciate Council's input on the effort. It will be open in June but the grand opening will be September 11th.

DJ reported on the next newsletter. He needs comments by the 22nd in order to get it to the printer next week. He also needs approval for \$200 to get this edition out. Don Girton made a motion to give approval, Tom Kruer second the motion and the motion carried.

Tom Kruer asked if we thought of some educational efforts regarding Cicadas. He thought it would be good to let people know that young trees will be at risk during May, June and July. Barry suggested that we send an article on Cicadas to the Post.

Kris passed out information regarding 'building with trees' that he received from Bill Fountain. Bill recommended a light approach that would be about a 2 hour event that included dinner, or a full day workshop. Sherry talked about a 'livable landscapes' workshop that she attended. She highly recommended one of the presenters, Robin Green, developer of Hidden Creek at the Darby which is outside of Columbus, Ohio. Sherry said Robin Green would appeal to builders and developers and that Robin shows the process of 'conservation development' and how to go about protecting trees during construction. Don Smyers thought it was important to appeal to the building community. Sherry has not yet got in touch with Dan Dressman, N. Ky. Home Builders Assoc., to see about collaboration on a workshop but will keep trying.

Don Girton had three items to bring up.

First, he announced an event at the Drees Pavilion, in Devou Park, for N. Ky. Philanthropy and the Council has been invited by the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) to be represented. It is on April 29th, from 5 – 7 pm. The Council is limited to two representatives. Don suggested John and Barry. Don said that GCF is asking for logos, photos and other material that may represent the Council for a display. Sherry noted that she had pictures of the Council's booth at the Building Expo if they were needed.

Second, Don attended a workshop for GCF grantees. There was a speaker from N.Y. addressing the importance of using the software 'impact manager' and the crisis of management. The GCF has a web site where their grantees need to input a one page summary of their goals and objectives. This site provides future donors a concise view of non-profit efforts in the region. Don will work with Barry on getting the needed info to the GCF.

Third, Don said we needed to get the first payment of \$20,000 to Jenny, Davey Resource Group, for the Kenton Canopy Assessment Study. He suggested we use the Div. of Forestry monies because we need to have a Forest Service Grant Report submitted by June 30th. It was agreed to do so.

DJ urged everyone to turn in their in-kind sheets. It would be helpful to have these on a monthly basis.

Barry will get with Mark as what he needs to get started.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Carran

