

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

Kris Stone called the meeting to order.

Present were Kris Stone, Don Smyers, Barry Schwartz, Geoff Egbers, Steve Myers, and Sherry Carran.

Kris welcomed Steve Myers. Steve manages the A.J.Jolly Golf Course and is being sponsored by NKU&CFC for the Arborist Training Program.

Kris asked if there were any corrections to the October minutes. Barry made a motion to accept the minutes, Don S. second the motion, and the motion was approved.

Copies of the Financial Report were passed around. Last reported balance as of 10/20/04 was \$22,640.93. Ending balance as of 11/17/04 is \$21,015.93. Jenny made a motion to accept the report, Geoff second the motion, and the motion was approved.

Old Business

Kris said that the report on the Arborist Training is not available as of yet. A report will be made when test scores are known.

Jenny reported that the Fall Forestry Dinner was exactly what we wanted and it was well attended. There were about 60 people and they seemed to represent a variety of community involvements. Sherry said she had received good comments regarding the guest presentations. Kris said he thought everyone (guest, presenters and Council Members) seemed to appreciate the evening. Sherry said it was good seeing Mark Leopold present the award to Bill Thomas for his many contributions to Urban & Community Forestry. Sherry noted what a surprise and how special it was to be given recognition by the Council.

Sherry reported that the Conservation Development presentation at the Home Builders Association (HBA) of N. Ky. went okay. She thought Robin Green, Hidden Creek at the Darby, did an excellent job. She said it was good working with Mike Enzweiler, HBA of N. Ky., who was very helpful. Sherry said though that she was disappointed in the turn out of about 32 people, Almost 2/3 were developers and engineers, the other 1/3 were NKU&CFC members, and there was one city council person. Geoff said that was a good turn out for that group and he thought we did well to have that many. Sherry said having in on Veterans' Day was probably a mistake because many people were taking a 4 day holiday.

Mark Leopold requested that all 2004 Trees in Our Community Grant reports be finalized and turned in. Sherry said she thought all those in charge of guiding the projects were aware and working on wrapping things up.

Jenny reported that a stakeholder meeting is being considered to decide what the Phase II of the Kenton County Forest Study should be. A committee needs to be established to work on this. The committee will be Don Girton, Jenny Gulick, Don Smyers and Mark Leopold. January is thought to be a good time for the meeting. Stakeholders could be representatives from N. Ky. Area Planning Commission, Banklick Watershed Council, SD#1, Conservation District, N. Ky. Kenton Conservancy, HBA of N. Ky., tree boards, Division of Forestry. Geoff asked how the Council plans on using the Study and expressed how he was hoping that it would lead to a green vision for N. KY. He also was curious if it would show if reforestation is happening, in the older suburbs, through individual efforts. Sherry expressed that reforestation of the older suburbs is good but that is different from the need for larger scale forest and the linking of such for wildlife corridors, and for tracts of land that are left in a natural state to be managed and/or restored to provide the benefits and character that only these kinds of areas can provide, such as riparian corridors and steep hillsides. Don S. said it is important to understand that there are intangibles at stake.

Jenny reported that the idea for Phase III of the Boone County Forest Study is to get the info to the general public. Jenny thought that for \$2,200 a template could be produced to create an insert for local newspapers.

Barry will check with local newspapers on possible cost. Kris will call Debby Kennedy, Community Recorder, and the Challenger to get an idea of cost. Jenny will work up a proposal.

Kris asked for comments regarding the 2004 building community capacity programs. It was agreed that to date the Council is doing a good job and programs are having a far reaching effect.

At the last meeting Mark expressed that the mailing list needs to be updated and expanded. Don S. agreed to take charge of this project but he will need help from everyone. Don will need Council members to fax or e-mail him list of city and county elected officials, city and county administrators, city and county department heads such as public works, tree board members, community organizations, focus groups, and interested individuals.

New Business

Barry passed out a sheet detailing the status of grants and opportunities for the Council. Out of 14 requests one has been granted which is the Ky. Div. of Forestry Grant. Six (6) have been rejected and seven (7) are pending.

Regarding 2005 Trees in Our Communities Grants, Kris asked how the program was being announced. It was in the last newsletter and is on the web site, but other efforts are needed. Don S. said he would get the word out in Kenton County. He said it would be good if D.J. could do Campbell County, and if someone else could do Boone County. Kris said a committee was needed to review the applicants. Geoff, Kris, Barry, John, and Sherry will be the committee. The grant applications are due Jan. 28th. The review committee will meet on Friday, Feb. 11th at 10 AM. We will need to check with D.J. to see if the meeting can take place at Campbell County Extension and if he could make copies of the grants to distribute to the committee members.

Kris said that it was time to nominate officers for 2005. It was agreed that Kris would be nominated for President and Mark would be nominated to continue as Treasurer. There was discussion about the nominations for Vice-president and Secretary. Sherry said she was okay with being nominated for Vice-president but it took more time being Secretary so we needed to see who would be interested. Jenny said she could but was not sure if that would work since there are times when she is hired as a contractor.

Kris requested that all in-kind hours, donations and bills be submitted. He said Mark would need this info for the end of the year reporting. We wondered if the hours of people attending the Dinner would count as in-kind. Adrian, KDOF, will be asked about this.

Kris passed out a copy of an e-mail that Mark had sent. Mark said the N. Ky. Public Workers Assoc. were having their annual meeting on Dec. 8th and that it would be good if someone from the Council could attend to promote our Public Workers Seminar and to get input on what kind of topics should be covered. Don S. agreed to do it and Sherry offered to help if needed.

Kris brought up the discussion of building community capacity projects for 2005 that was discussed at the earlier executive session. Some possible projects are:

- ... Develop a booklet on how to form tree boards and keeping them sustainable.
- ... Develop a door hanger on how to care for trees that tree boards can hang when trees are planted in front of a residence or business.
- ... Leverage success of Council by press releases of projects.
- ... Conduct community education classes on Urban & Community Forestry. Examples, 'Woodscaping class in Devou Park' by Don S. and John, and 'Getting Involved in Community through Tree Boards'.

Next meeting will be Dec. 15th at Durr Annex/Dixie Hwy. Office, Kenton Co. Extension Service.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Carran