

**Meeting:** NKUCFC Member Meeting

**Date:** August 6, 2018 @ 6:30 pm

**Location:** Sanitation District No. 1

**Chairperson:** Crystal Courtney

**Secretary:** Tara Sturgill

**In Attendance:** Crystal Courtney, Tara Sturgill, Chris Kaeff, Rosie Santos, Liz Fet, Kris Stone, Bridget Abernathy, Michele Stanton, Mathew Frantz, Mary Unterriener, Kristy Hopfensperger

### **1. Intros**

Crystal asked for introductions from those Board members present and visitors.

### **2. Review w/ approve minutes**

Crystal asked for edits to the minutes. Liz gave Tara an edited hard copy of minutes to incorporate. Crystal asked for motion to approve. Chris motioned to approve. Liz seconded. All approved.

### **2. Treasurers Report**

Chris updated the Board on the Treasurer's report that was passed around to the Board. Chris summarized the Treasurer's report. Chris asked about an increase in event registration to show the difference from this year to last year. Kris pointed out that it is a percentage given from the winter meeting that the Council helped with facilitated by Sarah Gracey. Chris pointed out that sponsorships are up due to sponsorships by Forge Lumber, OBG, and Great Lakes Brewing Co for Reforest NKY. Crystal asked if Chris will work with Reforest NKY Committee to discuss their budget needs from past years for the start of the program this year. Chris asked for questions regarding the Treasurer's report. Matt asked when we have had an audit last time. Kris said we haven't, though we can decide to have an internal audit. Rosie said we don't have an Audit Committee yet. Crystal asked for an update regarding the KY Department of Revenue sales tax issue (nonprofits required to remit sales tax on sales, silent auctions, membership dues, etc.). Chris said he doesn't completely understand the new tax law yet and needs to look into it more and will do so. Rosie pointed out that the new tax issue will impact Public Workers Tree Seminar, t-shirt sales for Reforest, potentially membership dues, etc. Chris pointed out we need an accountant. Matt asked if we had an accountant before; Chris explained we did and that the accountant only helped with taxes annually. Rosie asked if there is anyone at the KY Non-profit Network we could consult with regarding the tax matter. Crystal said that it could be a topic for the Board retreat and we could invite a guest speaker to speak on the nonprofit tax subject. Kris suggested Roger Smith at Non-profit Executive Services (does accounts for Friends of Boone County Arboretum). Crystal asked if Chris recommends this as a good next step; Chris said yes we could do that as a next step once the date for the retreat is set; Crystal pointed out the retreat date is already set for December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Kris said he will reach out to Roger Smith to see of his interest in speaking to us for December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Crystal asked for motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Rosie motioned; Liz seconded. All approved.

Mary Unterriener came into the meeting during the discussion of the Treasurer's report. Crystal asked Mary to introduce herself to the Board. Mary told the Board about herself and her professional experience.

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### *Development Committee - Membership Program Update*

Crystal asked Tara to present on the membership program. Tara began by speaking about the membership categories and presented some information on the screen for everyone to view during the discussion. Tara reviewed the membership tiers table the Development Committee came up with to help potential members understand what benefits are offered with what type of membership. Tara asked for suggestions for improvements to the chart that helps potential members find out what membership level is right for them or the membership tiers table. Tara pointed out that the membership page on the Council's website was developed using KY Association for Environmental Education's membership page on their website as a template because the Development Committee agreed it was fabulous. Tara explained that her recommendation to the Board is to utilize membership management software, specifically Wild Apricot. Matt interjected that utilizing Google for Nonprofits may be the better choice as a possibility. Matt said he would send Tara links to what he was reading about the functionality of Google for Nonprofits for membership management because he thinks it would be ideal. Chris asked if the Council is signed up for Wild Apricot; Tara explained that we are signed up for a free trial so she can look at the program and take advantage of the coaching opportunities and webinars. Chris asked about the transactions (credit card) management through Wild Apricot; Tara explained she still had to look into it and there still are transaction fees and they are around 2.9%. Rosie interjected that she has some experience with Wild Apricot through her time working with Green Umbrella and feels it is pretty intuitive in terms of usability. Matt explained that Google for Nonprofits has a lot of benefits in terms of AdWords that produce more traffic to our website and Google provides credits and he feels that we really need to look at that as an option before deciding on Wild Apricot. Matt reiterated that he would send links to Tara to help out with figuring out the usability of Google for Nonprofits for membership purposes. Tara stated that part of the point of looking into Wild Apricot was to ease the payment issues that Chris has been having with all of the different payment methods we use to collect online payments, additionally Chris has checked without bank regarding utilizing FirstPay (which the Arbortemum uses) and we still would have high credit card fees. Tara explained that we had all agree that we didn't want to use one of the existing online payment acceptors (WePay, Paypal) due to the confusion trying to differentiate what payment is coming in for what event, etc. Tara stated that was her main recommendation for using Wild Apricot is because it will be very clear that payments will be membership dues and the software keeps the invoices and manages the membership program for us. Tara reiterated that using other programs, like Google for Non Profits, could require us to have to be a lot more hands-on and that is what she is trying to avoid since we have no employees at this time. Tara stated she is willing to entertain other options if they are out there, this is just her recommendation to the Board at this time. Crystal interjected that in her opinion, if Tara has done the research and she feels comfortable rolling out with Wild Apricot and it's free for the first 50 people that sign up and we can use it to get membership up and running now then she is all for it as it is better to allow a program to do the work for us. Rosie said she has not heard of anyone using Google for Nonprofits to manage membership and that leads her to believe there is a

reason why. Kris said he was looking on his phone for examples of nonprofits using Google for Nonprofits and he was not finding anything. Tara reiterated that her concern would be the need to combine all these different apps on Google for Nonprofits and use a payment method like WePay or Paypal, that we already know causes confusion, and on top of that have to have a lot of hands-on management which is a lot of work for an all-volunteer organization; in contrast Wild Apricot that actually manages everything for us and we just insert it into our existing webpage to have members navigate to it. Matt said he just wants it to be clear that he feels there is much for usability and versatility within Google for Nonprofits that we may need to look into and Tara agrees. Tara said that at this point she is still digging into the Wild Apricot software and if Matt wants to send links of what he finds for Google for Nonprofits she will definitely entertain the possibility of using it for membership. Liz said that she feels that Wild Apricot is very intuitive after watching the tutorial video and it is similar to Constant Contact.

Tara explained again, until we have staff, her recommendation to manage the membership program is a membership management software that does the work for us. Tara asked Liz if there was anything she was forgetting to cover based on their internal discussions as the Development Committee. Crystal stated that as she see it the Development Committee has put together a marketing package for the membership program which the Board has already approved. Liz pointed out we developed a paper membership form for those that want to fill out a paper and mail a check or money order which was circulating around the Board table. Matt said that he understands that we may want to roll out the program using the Wild Apricot software which Tara researched and others are using, though he will look into Google for Nonprofits for this purpose and send some links right away to Tara to look at. Liz brought the paper membership form back up and asked about an address to put on it for people to mail back the form and checks; Chris said to use his address as the Treasurer.

Tara showed the Board more of the Membership Center on the Council's webpage. Rosie asked if we need to vote for anything to approve; Crystal said no since we approved the program and this is just development of that approved program.

Tara brought up a former discussion of membership renewal dates, and she explained that she doesn't want anyone to have to track renewal dates. Tara explained that Wild Apricot keeps track of renewal dates for us dependent on the date members sign up. Discussion amongst the Board regarding membership renewal issues; Kris interjected a recent experience at the Arboretum where someone joined and was very upset that she didn't get a full year after paying dues. Rosie asked about building the membership fee to include TIOC registration; Tara said we decided to offer discounts to members for TIOC. Rosie stated she was offering the opposite scenario, as part of registration for a conference, in this case TIOC, you get membership included as part of registration. Kris said that is a great way to get a lot of members all at once. Tara said her concern would be since this program is so new she is not necessarily interested in racking up as many members as we possibly can which is what would happen with offering membership as part of TIOC registration.

Tara stated that one of her last recommendations is changing the cost of the lifetime membership and it would include a motion to change the membership program approved by the Board. Tara pointed out that she feel the lifetime membership fee, which is a one-time payment for life, is too expensive. Tara

recommends that the lifetime membership be lowered to a one-time payment of \$500. Tara motioned to change the lifetime membership dues from \$1000 to \$500. Crystal asked for any discussion from the Board. Matt agreed that \$500 is way more reasonable. Crystal asked for a second. Rosie seconded. All in favor. Kris asked what are the perks for Lifetime members and stated that they better have some pretty good perks to get people to join as lifetime members. Kris said the Arboretum had to add some pretty good perks to get lifetime members. Kris explained they had to add some perks like him coming to their house to look at their plants, basically a private consultation. Tara explained that we currently don't have anything special for lifetime members. Kris suggested that the Development Committee come up with some perks for lifetime members, Tara agreed that the Development Committee will consider coming up with some perks for lifetime members to make it more attractive.

Matt interjected that he feels the membership model still needs some work, though he realizes that we are rolling it out now, it could still use some development over time. Kristy suggested after a time surveying the members to get their feedback on the program and make adaptive changes. Rosie asked Crystal if there were bylaw updates that we needed to get into, Crystal said yes.

Matt added that he recommends that the Board have a bylaw committee. Rosie said that is the Executive Committee. Matt said again that he thinks we need a bylaw committee. Rosie interjected that a bylaw committee is not something that is done. Matt said that he thinks that they do and he would have to disagree. Matt recommended that he thinks a bylaw committee is needed and we need to research it more.

Crystal explained that she copied and pasted in our new membership levels in the document that we edited and approved as a Board into the bylaws, and removed the group membership section from the bylaws and added the annual partnerships. Crystal explained that she excluded the prices from the levels. Kris said that is wise as you would have to change the bylaws every time you changed your membership level prices.

Matt interjected, reading from his phone, an explanation of the bylaws committee. Rosie asked where he was reading that from. Matt answered the internet.

Rosie suggested, in terms of process and structure, for bylaw amendment and all organizational and operational documents, it is the Executive Committee's function to maintain and make recommendations, and Board members are encouraged to submit bylaw amendments as they see fit, she would suggest that any suggested bylaw amendments go out with the email reminder for the Board meeting as an attachment drawing the Board's attention to it prior to the Board meeting so they can review the track edits as a procedural best practice and then creating a section in the agenda to address the bylaw discussion at the same time. Rosie explained she has never been on a Board that has a bylaw committee because you get to a point where you bylaws are just pretty much living, they exist and you only have to adjust them periodically. Matt stated that if they are only being overseen by the Executive Committee, and they have issues they need adjusted in a formal way. Rosie interrupted and said that bylaws are not only being overseen by the Executive Committee and she feels that we are going to completely derail on this topic from the current agenda and we can vet that out a different time. Crystal stated that she feels there is already a process for addressing our bylaws and we have been following it which includes the Executive

Committee getting together, making suggested edits, and presenting that the Board members, and the members have time to review the bylaws. Crystal also stated that Board members can take it upon themselves to review the bylaws and bring to a meeting or send to the Executive Committee ahead of the Board meeting so it can be added to the agenda. Kris said that aligns with all the Boards he is a part of, as long as your membership has a chance to look at it, you are covered.

Crystal reiterated what her bylaw edit suggestions were: adding the membership levels from the membership program approved by the Board and included language from our Volunteer Agreement and asked the Board to look at the edits she made ahead of our next meeting. Rosie clarified that Crystal is not asking for a formal vote to approve the bylaws at this time. Crystal said no. Rosie asked if there is a clean version of the bylaws saved somewhere. Crystal said it is on the Council's website.

#### *Operations Committee and/or GIS Committee*

Crystal asked Matt if he had any updates for the Operations Committee and/or the GIS Committee.

Matt explained that Operations Committee will meet at the end of August or probably the beginning of September and he will send out a request to the members.

Matt explained that the committee has applied for ESRI online account and were approved. Matt explained that the Committee thought they would need the Council to invest in a laptop to be able to utilize the account. Matt said no laptop is needed; we can use the online account and utilize the Cloud-based management and can incorporate the UTC data into Forestry Council's ArcGIS account and be able to get that data out to communities that are interested in the UTC. Matt mentioned there is iTree trainig this spring and Dudley Hartel of the U.S. Forest Service said that he can help partner with the Council to get other user accounts to basically offer data to communities that don't have an urban forestry program or inventory data available. Matt said the user account is \$100/year and he suggests that it worth trying out for a year.

Chris asked if Kyle could help to get the program up and running (ArcGIS online). Matt's recommendation is having autonomy from PDS and everything could be done within the Cloud and the GIS Committee could manage the data. Matt's bigger point is that a laptop is not required for us to get this data out to the community, the program is \$100/year, and offers opportunity to get the data out to the communities as the Council. Bridget said that it was a good idea to explore the prospect of working with the USFS to do community trainings for data collection and using the UTC data. Chris interjected that the \$100/year is a great price, the cost is normally \$2,000/year; Matt said he thinks it was actually \$8,000 to purchase the full suite. Matt said the opportunity is there if we do decide to purchase a laptop in the future to run the program, but that this point it is not necessary. Matt said that Dudley offered to help publish the data for the different communities and that the Council would have the main user account Dudley can offer up to 5 users accounts, if we needed that many. Matt pointed out that could mean 5 different communities collecting data at the same time but it would be possible.

Rosie asked if the GIS Committee is separate from the Operations Committee. Matt said yes. Rosie suggested that we may need a GIS usage policy before we approve spending the money, a process of

procedure about how it would function (access granting, conflicts of interest, etc.). Bridget said that Dudley is getting ready to retire in a few months and what he can provide in terms of technical service may not be what his replacement may be willing to do long term. Bridget suggests that is a conversation that needs to be had with Dudley. Matt said Dudley communicated to him that he didn't think this would be very complicated to roll out though Matt agreed that his retirement and replacement should be considered as part of the prospect. Matt explained there is interest from Bellevue and three total communities that were interested in learning more about what the Council can provide in terms of UTC data. Crystal asked when the next GIS Committee meeting planned. Matt said this month or mid next month. Matt asked if Bridget would like to be included, she said yes.

### *Arborist Scholarship Program*

Crystal asked Kris for an update on the Arborist Scholarship Program. Kris said nothing new has come in recently. Kris asked Crystal to expand on the changes she had contacted him about after the last meeting. Crystal said she had shot Kris an email, the changes were regarding the new membership program, there were benefits that expand beyond just the Arborist Scholarship, it goes into the Municipal Specialist, Board Certified Master Arborist, and Tree Workers meaning the application will need to be updated. Crystal also pointed out the application still says 2015 on it and needs to be changed. Crystal said she uploaded it as a Google Doc and it is included in the email that she sent to Kris.

### *Trees in our Community Form (TOIC) Update*

Crystal asked Bridget to update the Board on TIOC. Bridget handed out some spreadsheet of the budget comparison to the Board. Bridget summarized the recent planning of TIOC, a few on the TIOC Committee met at the new potential venue: the Devou Center to assess the space and considering the Devou Good donation to help with the TIOC budget through Rosie's contact. Bridget stated the TIOC Committee decided at that time that they were going forward with the Devou Center as the venue and an email went out to the Board sharing that information.

Bridget explained the TIOC budget to the Board with the addition of the donation from Devou Good. Bridget explained there is a total loss (Council's expense) of about \$740 if we have 95 people register. Bridget explained the cost comparison of Twin Oaks with a lower registration cost, the loss would be about \$950. Bridget stated that the TIOC Committee discussed that there would need to be an offset in future years, either by Devou Good or another sponsor, to make this not just a one year switch to the Devou Event Center. Bridget stated registration cost will be increased to \$25/person and the cost to the Council will be about \$46/per person for everything (gratuity, rental, catering, etc.). Bridget explained more planning milestones: speaker identified: Chris Chandler through The Nature Conservancy talking about the Green Heart Project. Bridget said that award nominees have not been solicited yet and there will be a flyer update which can be promoted at the BC Arboretum's Autumn Affair.

Bridget asked Crystal to talk about incorporating the meeting into the agenda of TIOC. Crystal can open by announcing the new Board members, recap of last year (Board Committees), and ways to get involved. Bridget pointed out that this will be incorporating throughout the night, not preceding the dinner, as was

discussed prior. Kris pointed out that the flyer said registration is through Event Bright though the Council's event registration is through Constant Contact, Bridget said to ignore that because it is an error.

Bridget asked for Board members to be on the lookout for silent auction items and Jenny Gulick is the chair for that committee. Crystal asked about vendors for TIOC and the fee for vendors. Bridget pointed out that we had not had vendor fees in prior years. Board discussed the possibility of having vendor fees. Crystal pointed out that a Bur Oak membership gets you a table at TIOC. Crystal is asking for input from the Board on what to tell Jenny. Kris explained some the vendor benefits for Autumn Affair. Crystal asked if Bridget is interested in discussing that with the TIOC Committee to opportunity of assessing vendor fees, Kris said he would forward the Autumn Affair's vendor info to Bridget. Bridget said she will consider it with the TIOC Committee and doesn't feel that it is too late to consider it for the event. Bridget said there is limited room for vendors and that needs to be taken into consideration. Rosie asked about placing a cap on the number of vendor opportunities. Bridget will review the info Kris sent and she will cap at \$150 and go from there. Bridget made request for more people to help on TIOC Committee from Board members. Crystal added that as Board members we are expected to have a hand in TIOC program. Liz said she had some items for donation from Greenery 33 and other items. Tara said to send silent auction info to her as well and include the value, starting bid, description of item, who donated, etc. Kris needs event photos for Constant Contact announcements; Rosie said she can get picture to Kris of the event center.

#### *Kristi Hofensperger – Reforest NKY Research*

Crystal asked Kristy to give an update of Reforest NKY research. Kristy asked Tara to project her PowerPoint presentation for her on the computer. Kristy passed out some sheets with questions to the Board for feedback after her presentation before we leave today. Kristy introduced herself to the Board and explained that she wanted to speak to the Board about the work she has been doing in her lab with her students and some of the work they have been doing with the Council. Kristy explained that she wants this presentation to facilitate thought about what more can be done in the future with research. Kristy summarized her background and her professional career and her position as Director of the Environmental Science program at Northern Kentucky University. Kristy explained her research interests are varied, she is really excited about ecology and the environment and is trained in aquatic systems, though she has recently been moving into terrestrial environments. Kristy imparted is she interested in green infrastructure, specifically stormwater management, and have done extensive research on invasive species (honeysuckle and garlic mustard) and her background is as a biogeochemist so she does a lot in nutrient cycling, nitrogen, carbon, and greenhouse gases and really enjoys working with community partners which is what brings her here today.

Kristy dove into the history of Reforest NKY which started with Mark Leopold approaching Kristy in 2014 because the program got funds to do a tree tube study for the Reforest event held at Devou Park. Kristy explained that Mark has asked for some input on Research methods and experimental design and that transitioned into her 2015 Environmental Seminar course helping with the research for Reforest. Kristy explained that all the of the products produced from this research has been given to Jessica of Crystal; Crystal pointed out that these documents are shared on our website. Kristy explained more about student research with the Council into 2016 and that is how the Research Partnership Agreement came

about between the Council and Kristy's program. Kristy stated that Reforest NKY is a great annual event that the University could utilize to get a constant data set and begin asking some interesting ecological questions, however Kristy pointed out that there is not a lot of published research on the success of volunteer tree plantings. Kristy said that her background as a biogeochemist allows her to look into the soil development over time which has been a part of her research with Reforest as well. Kristy gave an overview of the long-term goals of the Research Partnership. Kristy told the Board that in her opinion she feels the partnership has been successful and that since the inception she has had 8 students take part in some form of research for the Council for credit and surveyed 10 Reforest sites. Kristy summarized some of the data and results of these research endeavors with the Board, mostly covering the timeline of research and the type of data collected on Reforest sites. Kristy explained the next steps, she is interested in coproduction of knowledge which is a term in the science world that's a pretty hot topic meaning that we work together, scientists, partners, citizens collectively to reach the goals, firstly identifying the goals, and how we are going to reach the goals collaboratively. Kristy presented that she was recognized as a Leshner Fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Public Engagement and she brings this up because it allows for access of a lot of resources through this fellowship and utilize it to get the best management practices of public engagement, especially if the Council wants to go the route of incorporating more citizen science into the Reforest event. Kristy presented that her short term goals with the Council are to assess current NKY Research Partnership and identify the next research topics and activities that are of interest because she feels that we could go in a lot of different directions, and codevelop the plan for moving forward. Kristy presented a timeline for her goals which would include a meeting which Kristy would host to discuss moving forward and brainstorming what the Council is interested in moving forward with in terms of research and ideas. Kristy presented October as a date, though said it can be flexible because she understands the Council has a lot going on currently. Kristy said after that event, she would take all that information and summarize it, and then work with the Board for what the next steps would be of how to move forward. Kristy clarified that all the current research efforts will continue to move forward, she has two students registered for fall semester to do more soil analyses and survivorship. The Board thanked Kristy for her presentation. Crystal asked if Kristy wanted the sheets she passed out back tonight, Kristy indicated that she would like them back tonight or you can email her later too.

### *Public Workers Tree Seminar*

Crystal asked for an update by Michele. Michele gave a brief summary of the program for the Board. Michele invited Board members to the PWTS planning committee as they need help. Michele has not held a meeting yet, planning for it to be in September. Michele welcomes ideas for topics, speakers, etc. please let her know.

### *Elections*

Crystal updated the Board on election process. President and Vice President will be vacated and the Board is currently soliciting nominations for both of those positions and new officers and we are also officially soliciting for new Board members. Crystal explained that interested prospective Board members that have been nominated are Mary, Kristy, Tanner Yess, Susan Brown, and Mary Ann Schultz.

Matt asked about those Board members that are currently falling off vs. those that are continuing their Board position into 2019. Crystal explained that those falling off will just need to be reelected this year if they wish to continue with the Board. Matt asked when these elections will be held, Crystal answered they will be done every year.

Crystal suggested that we put together a slate which is presented to membership. August to September solicit nominations. Crystal asked Rosie what happens if you get more than one nomination for a position. Rosie said that you allow membership to vote for those that are nominated; if there are 3 positions to fill and 6 nominees, then the members vote and whoever has the most votes wins. Rosie said it is different for a "slate" which is a vote yes or no for the slate that is presented by the Board. Matt asked if we need to set up an elections committee or will the Executive Committee oversee the elections. Rosie said that the Executive Committee may have some special meetings for this. Crystal said at this time we will solicit nominations and see what we get and who is interested and decide how the vote needs to go based on that. Matt asked if we could generate membership through the Board and asked if we have members yet. Rosie pointed out that we haven't rolled out the membership program, so no. Chris asked if you have to be an existing Board member to run for office, Crystal said yes.

Crystal asked the Board give any nominations for Board members, President, and Vice President to her. Chris asked about future Board members will be added through the process of elections; Crystal stated that Liz was the last Board member added by vote of Board. Tara will ask Devin about joining the Board. Chris asked if it was a maximum of 15. Crystal said yes and we have 9 open seats for this election. Crystal asked for any questions from the Board. Rosie stated that she does not plan to run for Vice President or the Board again due to being very excited about what Kristy is proposing and she is getting ready to start her thesis for grad school and needs to focus on that. Chris pointed out that he and Tara are staying as officers for another year and asked if we need to run again. Crystal said no because our positions won't be up for reelection until 2019. Discussion amongst the Board about the Board members that are continuing and those that are falling off – Tara, Chris, Matt, Liz, and Michele will continue as Board members until 2019 leaving 9 open Board seats. Crystal suggested a spreadsheet that shows when Board members terms are up to help with the confusion.

Crystal said she suggested that the membership meeting could be a celebration of the retirement for Sarah. Bridget said that Sarah's availability is until September 22<sup>nd</sup>, though she may be able to come to this meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Bridget will ask her about her ability to come to the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to celebrate her retirement. Discussion of what she likes in terms of a venue. Michele pointed out that were supposed to do a vineyard tour, so we should try to incorporate that into the celebration of Sarah's retirement.

*Next Board Meeting – December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>*

Crystal explained we will have a retreat to on-Board new Board members, breakdown of Strategic Plan, and basic training for Board members (technology, Roberts Rules of Order, tax law, etc.). Rosie offered to help with the agenda for the Board retreat though she reiterated that she no longer wants a Board seat. Crystal asked for Board members to let her know about venues for an overnight stay for the retreat. Matt asked about what the retreat looks like. Crystal explained potentially at a State Park and meet at certain

times for training and networking. Rosie pointed out that it would be at the Board members expense. Crystal asked to let her know of any conflicts and maybe we can work through it to plan the retreat.

### *Open Discussion Topics*

Crystal informed the Board that our membership with AC Trees is up this year and needs to be renewed, it is \$125/year. Crystal explained AC Trees is an affiliate organization of the Arbor Day Foundation and Crystal has used grant opportunities they offer for urban forestry projects, for example this group funded the Pioneer Park planting which was \$5,000. Crystal asked for approval to renew that membership. Matt motioned, Liz seconded. All in favor. No opposed. Bridget reiterated the importance of this membership in her experiences and stated that it puts the Council on a national map to connect with partners.

Crystal asked if a Board member can table for the Kenton County Parks Morning View Hike in September. Liz committed to table at that event for the Council.

Crystal stated that was the end of her agenda and asked the Board for any topics they wished to discuss.

Chris brought up that Kenton County Conservation District decided to take on the land donation that was offered to the Council by Jana and are closing on it this month. Chris said that he offered the Council as a partnership to potentially develop some urban forestry curriculum and work with the school adjacent to the property. Crystal suggested that the Operations Committee can take on that program for the school, since it would be a new program for the Council. Chris stated the the initial \$10,000 gift from the family will be used by KCCD to clean up the site, remove dead ash, address invasive species, etc.

Liz asked if there are any other tree events happening in October, she was asked by Susan if there was anything on the radar because she is trying to plan an event in October and she doesn't want to conflict with anything else. Crystal said that October 27<sup>th</sup> is Make a Difference Day and Taking Root a Greater Cincinnati tree planting initiative. Crystal pointed out that Kris and Jessica would be more helpful for other events happening to give more information. Kristy stated that she knows about a neighborhood in Newport that will be doing a tree planting in October.

Bridget pointed out that any of the tree planting events in October should be registered with ACT's Neighborwoods Tree Planting Month. Bridget said you just send a few pieces of information and that gets it put on the calendar.

Chris said Kenton County Conservation District has large planting this fall that involves planting approximately 13,000 trees by the end of November. Chris explained the planting will be along Banklick Creek along Pioneer Park at the FEMA buyout properties and Morning View. DHL to do a lot of the volunteer planting and offering 100s of employees; DHL corporate has a sustainability plan so they are wanting to plant 1 million trees per year. Chris is concerned about providing oversight to these people and the timing is November and is soliciting for help. Chris asked for people who are willing to be tree leaders to come help would with the planting. Crystal said that we can put that out to our Reforest NKY listserv to those with tree planting experience to ask for help. Chris also pointed out the Kristy that they

will need to complete monitoring for survivability. Kristy said that she can get info out to her students about helping if Chris provides the dates to her. Discussion amongst the Board regarding these DHL tree planting events.

Crystal motioned to adjourn. Rosie seconded. Adjourned at 8:35.