

Meeting: NKUCFC Board of Directors

Date: December 8th, 2018

Location: Sanitation District 1

Officers: Crystal Courtney, Rosie Santos, Chris Kaeff, Tara Sturgill

Secretary: Tara Sturgill

In Attendance: **Kris Stone, Maryann Shultz, Rosemarie Santos, Crystal Courtney, Tanner Yess, Kristy H., Chris Kaeff, Jessica Spencer, Vic Vanover, Susan Brown, Mary U., Tara Sturgill, Liz Fet**

Minutes taken after the onboarding/training portion of the Board Retreat.

Questions taken from the Board of Directors (Board) regarding different Board committees and their processes. Kris suggested creating a budget committee for the Board. Discussion amongst the Board regarding the responsibilities of the Board committees. Rosie presented she would be interested in helping with the budget committee. Kris asked about vacancies to Board committee chairs. Rosie stated that there are vacancies of chairs in the Operations Committee and UTC Committee. Crystal projected the Strategic Plan so people could sign up for committees. Chris committed to UTC, and asked for someone to take over Treasurer after this year. Rosie asked for the Board consider Jessica moving into another committee rather than taking over Operations, Kristy and Susan volunteered for Development, Mary volunteered for Development, Victor volunteered for Operations, Maryann volunteered for Development. Tanner volunteered for Development. Crystal pointed out that these committees are not just for Board members and we should feel free to invite members that may be appropriate to help.

Maryann brought up that Michele needs assigned to a Board committee. Crystal placed Michele in Operations, as she had already been a member of Operations in 2018. Liz asked about the schedule for Board committee meetings; Rosie suggested that the schedule of meetings is the job the Board committee chairs. Crystal explained that she and Tara have set the Master Calendar at the beginning of the year. Tara stated she will update the Google Calendar for the Board, Executive Committee, and Programs and send to the Board. Kristy asked about the Board meeting schedule, Crystal answered the Board meets quarterly from 6:30 – 8:30. Kristy suggested that we consider making the Board retreat in January rather than December. Crystal explained that we set it up for December originally because it is the last quarterly meeting of the year. Discussion amongst the Board regarding the potential date change for the Board retreat. Kris suggested that we need to continue having fun activities for membership, Board agreed. Kris talked about Pour for More, adding a dollar to a special drink and the funds would go to the Pour for More fund for a number of nonprofits. Kris said the Arboretum along with Barringer Crawford Museum wanted to do this and include the Council in that fundraising.

Rosie asked how the Board felt about having the retreat on one day, Board retreat would be a morning and afternoon training/onboarding and dinner that same evening. Rosie also presented

that two Board positions are open, one one-year term from Matt's vacated seat, and a full two-year term that was vacant.

Kristy asked about engaging the listserv from Reforest and getting citizen feedback for research. Kristy said we had talked about an all-members type meeting that would aid in that discussion to garner citizen feedback. Tara asked what that meeting looks like. Kristy said that the planning hasn't been figured out yet and would need to be in a space where people could talk and discuss, so we need to be discerning about the venue, but need to get the people there as well. Kristy explained she wants to plan with the Board and not for them, and she wants to keep working on this and get the meeting done in February. Crystal said that it may be something to work within the Operations Committee as it may fit within a goal. Kristy said she has some funding but she needs to get this planned and the funding used prior to May when her fellowship is over. Kristy said that she thinks some of the ideas for research could be employed at Reforest NKY this year so citizens can see it in action. Kristy explained her thoughts behind the meeting: asking people how they want to be involved with citizen science, review their feedback, and create a program from that feedback. Kris explained that the Arboretum has a networking meeting which is really well attended, so like a chili cook off and conversations. Kristy said she thinks the audience is more the volunteers for RNKY that we want to engage, and she would suggest casting a really broad net; however, these ideas can go past RNKY. Jessica asked if Kristy could be a part of the Taking Root Great Trees Summit, Kris said yes, but it is in Clermont County, and it may be too far a distance to get Northern Kentuckians. Kris said the Great Trees Summit is in February. Tara asked if she should get it in the calendar. Kristy said she wants to make sure the Board is still interested in doing this program. Jessica said we are interested we just have to figure out how to cast that wide net. Crystal suggested that there is the Great Tree Summit, PWTS, Reforest NKY, Tri State Green Industry Expo coming up. Rosie said that she likes lumping it into our first social meeting and use a pot luck type of event with a chili cook off. Rosie said that if everyone is okay with the foundations of the meeting, then we should do it in tandem with something we already need to do (membership meeting), and we can have Operations work out the details. Kristy said that she would take the lead on that in Operations. Tara asked if she could put it on the calendar February 21st a Membership Social and Chili Cook Off. Board agreed to that date, Tara committed to put it on the calendar.

Kris brought up that there has been a conversation about taking over Taking Root and presented it to the Board. Kris presented that Taking Root Cincinnati mentioned wanting to talk to the Council about merging and the Council taking over the program. Kris explained that their mission would not become our mission (2 million trees by 2020) and they have funding that would be assimilated into the Council. Kris said that they are stable financially however they don't have staff and are not able to grow their Board as of yet. Kris said they have a lot of good people involved, though we would have to assimilate them and it would require changes of all our organization documents.

Jessica asked if it would make sense for a Taking Root person to be part of our Board and take one of our vacancies. Discussion amongst the Board of who we would want to ask. Kristy asked if we could talk to someone regarding whether there have been similar acquisitions like this in the state to see if it makes sense to merge with them. Discussion amongst the Board regarding some of the issues with Taking Root. Rosie said it seems that they don't have the infrastructure and we do, and they would give us the ability to have a more regional focus. Chris said he would be concerned that merging would take focus off Northern KY and make it more Cincinnati focused, that is a potential problem. Kris talked about some of the potential issues and Rosie brought up some of the pros of the merger. Rosie suggested courting Taking Root for a while before even considering merging. Kristy asked how we could be working in Cincinnati and still be NKY based. Crystal explained that we are under the purview of the NKY Coordinator for the KY Division of Forestry (Bridget Abernathy). Kristy asked if the Council would want to take on something that could potentially be kind of bound to fail (in terms of the 2020 – 2 million trees). Kristy said that it would be a huge change of mission in terms of making it regional. Rosie read the Mission Statement to clarify. Mary interjected some of the concerns she has with the merger. Kris said Taking Root also talked to the Ohio River Foundation about merging. Jessica said that she doesn't feel that there is enough info to really consider this now and she doesn't feel that they would really be able to take the focus off NKY to Cincinnati due to lack of interest. Tanner said he could help advise on what not to do based on his experience with mergers and that the courtship portion is really important. Tanner suggested to start working together more to feel it out. Kris said that we should invite someone from their Board to our Board to fill a vacancy and begin the cross-pollination process and know more before. The Board agreed with Kris's suggestion of bringing someone from Taking Root to potentially be on our Board.

Crystal asked to adjourn at 3:17.