



**Asheville Tree Commission/Minutes  
Monday, August 15, 2016**

**CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS: Mike Kenton (Chair), Debbie Emmons (Vice- Chair);** Amy Kemp; Stephen Hendricks; **Marc Williams;** Roy Smith; Phyllis Stiles; Richard Stiles; Mike Davie; **Bill Hascher; Carl Nyberg;** Alison Arnold; **Dawn Chavez, Diane Hillgrove**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome new Tree Commission Member Diane Hillgrove

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mark Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Carl Nyberg second the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. City Tree Update, Mark Foster**

- Spending a lot of time cleaning up trees from the thunder showers
- Hope to do more tree work contracting this year
- Filled two open positions

**b. TRC , Susan Roderick**

- Six different items on the TRC, please see Susan if you have any questions for her. And she has the plans if you all would to see them.

**c. Duke Energy, Roy Smith**

- No report

**d. Bee City, Phyllis Stiles**

- We look forward to passing responsibility to Asheville GreenWorks for the local Bee City USA program with the hiring of the Urban Forester.
- It's gratifying to see organizations and individuals adopting our recommended species list. In her work for Bee City USA Asheville, Sarah Coury applied for and received a \$300 grant from the West Asheville Garden Stroll grant fund to plant a demonstration garden at Hominy Creek. We just received a note from Chas Jansen on the WAGS committee saying, "I visited the garden in the Hominy Creek Greenway and was impressed by the work, thoughtfulness in planting choices, and of course how such gardens throughout Asheville will help support our pollinator

populations. To support your efforts and in the spirit of Bee City Asheville, we are including the URL of your website's resource pages and encouraging all 2017 Seed Grant project proposals to choose plants with pollinators' needs in mind."

- We were thrilled with the Beyond Pesticides workshops with Parks & Rec and with the public on August 10. We are grateful that under Roderick Simmons' leadership, Parks and Recreation has been moving away from synthetic chemicals for pest management and fertilization to completely organic landscape management during the past two years.
  - On August 10 after spending all day training Asheville Parks and Recreation staff in organic lawn care methods, Chip Osborne, president of Osborne Organics, and Jay Feldman, Executive Director of Beyond Pesticides, led a 2+ hour public workshop sponsored by Beyond Pesticides, the City of Asheville, Toxic Free NC, Bee City USA, and the Asheville Alternative to Pesticides Coalition.
  - About 50 people, many of them from the plant retailer or landscaping industry, attended the very informative workshop where Feldman summarized the origins of our national pesticide treadmill and Osborne explained working WITH nature and soil biology to maintain healthy turf lawns.
  - Cities maintain large expanses of turf lawns in public parks and athletic fields. As the inaugural affiliate of Bee City USA, the City of Asheville was selected by Beyond Pesticides and Osborne Organics to not only engage in this training, but also to test the methodology at three city-owned sites: Martin Luther King Park, Pack Square Park, and a new community garden. They have tested soil samples from each location and designed a management strategy in response. This coming year they will collaborate on implementing the plan.
  - The Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA programs encourage affiliates to practice organic, "least toxic," integrated pest management as espoused by Osborne Organics and Beyond Pesticides. It was encouraging to hear Chip Osborne support reducing lawns and expanding flower beds generally for the health of pollinators and other wildlife, and explain that including clover in lawns is good for soil, since clover is "nitrogen-fixing." Indeed, until the 1950's, grass seed mixes included clover!
- e. Blue Ridge Arborist Assoc., Mike Davies**
- The check and the paperwork was sent to the insurance company. Hopefully soon we can begin our work to help out with the City.
  - Meeting on August 24, 2016
- f. Asheville GreenWorks, Dawn Chavez**
- Today is the deadline for the position of the Urban Forest Coordinator.
- g. Recommended Species List and Asheville Open Tree Map, Amy Kemp**
- No report

#### h. Parks and Recreation

- No report

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Beginning with August meeting, it will be bring your own lunch for the meeting.**
- Mark Williams will be doing updates to the Recommended Species List.
- Any one that wants to apply for the Tree Commission please contact Maggie Burleson.
- We will be planting a tree in memory of Justin Price in the fall. We will be working on getting the species his father prefers and the location to where we could plant it.
- Phyllis Stiles brought up that the Hendersonville Tree Board have tree walks. Maybe this is something our Tree Commission could get involved in.
- Cecil is to go before the city council on Tuesday to define "historic tree".
  - Any tree that is of a variety included on the city's Recommended Species List, having at the time of submission a dbh of twelve inches or larger, which is deemed by a resident to have historical significance. This could include, but is not limited to, connections to notable people and/or events. It could also include trees that the resident believes add to the character and/or charm of the city of Asheville."

### 4. Sub Committees

- Edible Plants
  - Met last Monday. Amber and Randall were present for that meeting. We are doing a walk on the edible mile, at New Belgium. Discussing some soil testing, plant analysis, and toxicity in the plants. Anyone that has any information that would be helpful to me or the group in this please let us know.
  - Will be doing a lot of projects in the communities as well as listening to the communities. The more we bridge the different groups the better off we will be.
  - Meetings may have to move to Tuesday, we will have one in October on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Green Sage at Westgate.
- Urban Forest Keepers/ Alternative Compliance –
  - Most interesting is the buildings and planters that are going in and around on Short Coxe.
- Tree Protection –
  - Mike Kenton- there is a tree ordinance in Asheville however it is weak when it comes to trees on private property. We are working on bettering the protection for those trees.
  - Kira is working on "Love the Tree" an educational platform campaign, to teach others about tree care.
  - Steve has been working with County and City officials to try incorporate tax incentives for property owners that don't cut down trees.
  - We will be doing site visits to ensure trees are being taken care of before and after.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT (5 CITIZENS, 3 MINUTES EACH)

- Collier Ave- apartment complex will be built. Ingrid is here to thank you for the letter the Commission wrote in regards to save as many trees as possible. We are looking for volunteers to preserve the trees and take care of the area.  
We have a meeting coming up to look at options to preserve the forest. We would like to use any offers to help as leverage to be a positive input to help with the area if we can spare the trees. If you would like to donate please do to Mountain True. It will be tax deductible.
- Several people have reached out to me (Mike) in regards to the trees that are being cut down at the Asheville Country Club. The Country Club is private property. Susan will see if they have a landscape plan.
- Stephanie Monson- City of Asheville- Rivers Art District  
We are implementing a 2.2 mile stretch, along Riverside Drive and Lyman Street. Starting today we will be removing trees twice. A subcontractor will be helping from Duke Energy. Later there will be people removing trees. Discussion of what trees will be removed and why. Because the roadway is large, we will be planting streetscape trees. They will be the appropriate trees for the area. After construction, we will be working with GreenWorks, the Boy Scouts and planting more appropriate native trees and shrubs.

## 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- None at this time

## ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: **Monday, September 19, 2016**

For more information on the [Asheville Tree Commission](#), please contact [Lora Morgan 828-259-5932](tel:828-259-5932)