

**Asheville Tree Commission
Monday, November 17, 2014
Minutes**

Members Present: Mike Kenton (Tree Commission- Chair); Bob Gale (Tree Commission); Amy Kemp (Tree Commission); Brandee Boggs (Tree Commission); Richard Stiles (Bee City USA); Susan Roderick (Tree Commission); Debbie Emmons (Tree Commission- Vice Chair);

Staff Present: Chad Bandy (Public Works); Lora Morgan (Public Works); Mark Foster (Public Works); Cecil Bothwell (City Council); Greg Shuler (Public Works); Joey Robinson (City of Asheville, Planning)

Guest: Heather Seltzer (Code Asheville)

The Asheville Tree Commission held its monthly meeting on **Monday, November 17, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.** in Room A-109 of the William F. Wolcott Public Works Complex at 161 South. Charlotte Street. Mike Kenton called the meeting order.

Mike welcomed everyone to the Tree Commission meeting.

The motion was made by Bob Gale to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2014, Tree Commission meeting, Brandee Boggs seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Very special recognition to Bob Gale who has served on the Tree Commission for very, very long time. Chair of the Tree Commission, Chair of the Alternative Compliance, we appreciate all that Bob has done.

Also Amy Kemp and Brandee Boggs are scheduled to rotate off. Thank you to Amy and Brandee for your commitment to the Tree Commission.

Bob, Brandee and Amy are required to stay on the Tree Commission until the position is filled.

Joey Robinson, Executive Assistant Planning and Multimodal Transportation.

I will be working on the Master Species List, as well as fruit tree policies. Joey's previous education and background information is in Resource Management and Environmental Education.

Went back to school for my Masters in Planning. I have background and experience in this field and am looking forward to working with you all on getting what you need.

Joey and Amy will be meeting with the Risk Manager after this meeting to discuss any risk as far as the edibles as well as the local property. We want to make sure the Planning Department has a chance to look at this and give their recommendations. Then I plan to set up a meeting in January with several different committees and get their input.

When you have a lot of different voices working on a project for so long, it will take effort on everyone's part. Hopefully soon we will see progress happening soon.

I want to make sure everyone has a chance to hear the discussions, have their input and that when we get to the end result we all understand how we got there.

Heather Seltzer- Code Asheville and Asheville Open Tree Map

Amy came into one of the Code Asheville meetings about a month ago and was inquiring about upgrading the Tree Map. We talked about upgrading it to cell phones and such so it can go with you. This is a project we want to take on.

We have the upgraded version about ready to go. We are just waiting on a couple of finishing touches.

It is a good time for me to be around and listen to what we are needing to do here in the City and help in all aspects.

We should be able to have this done within a month. We are looking at this being a generous donation but hoping that this can be budgeted in with the City's budget so that the hardware part can be paid for.

We want to look at the best ways in technology to connect the City. I look forward to working with you all!

Directors Report: Greg Shuler

- The vacancies coming up on the Tree Commission. We have three of seven vacant. We have also had to that have submitted their resignation. Please reach out to your colleagues and make them aware of the openings. This is one that is a part of the TRC monthly. I see where the decisions that are made that effect our budget for Mark's crews. And it makes a difference in the community.
- Really appreciate the members that have been on this committee. You have put in a lot of effort and time and it shows. I truly appreciate you all.
- Potential members will need to live in the City limits and will need to apply on line under Boards and Commission.
- If you have questions you can go on line under Boards and Commissions and read the Talent Scout and it has good information.

- We are getting ready to start a new type of budgeting. Priority Budgeting. I am looking forward to learning more about it.
- We are in the midst of a Compensation and Classification Study.

Tree- Related Activities:

Mark Foster

- Business as usual. Work orders and map Asheville have slowed down a bit.
- We have moved our attention to back logged work orders and Holiday lighting.
- Patton Ave. we took delivery for last two trees for the sidewalk repair project. Two trees going in front of the music store. I am using a Red Maple and a Lacebark Elm. This will end our fall planting.
- There are thirty trees at this time that are on the list to be on the Spring Planting list.
- Couple of weeks ago I went to my first Arbor Day Foundation Partners in Community Forestry event. I got the CEU's I needed. I wanted to go to a more technical event.
- I got to go on the downtown walk. I got to see the tree pits for the downtown area. It was good stuff. I made contact with a vendor that would replace our tree grates with a pervious surface.
- I also have been nominated to be back on the Urban Forest Council.
- We have a focus area for Greenways. Possibility of the Greenways going all the way to Biltmore Park. I am focusing on an old bridge under I-240 next to the transfer station. We see this as a trail head with some lighting on it. A place where different Greenways come together. We want to raise money and restore this bridge. Mike brought up that when the weather is warmer that the Tree Commission could take a field trip to take a look at the bridge.
- Greg made comment that we have gone and made sure the graffiti was off the bridge.

Citizen Response Committee:

Mark Foster

- No report

TRC Committee Report:

Susan Roderick

- On Thursday this week the Extension Service is going to have a great Tree Workshop.
- Two items on the TRC: neither of them have any tree related issues.

Duke Energy Progress:

Roy Smith

- No Report

Bee City USA:

Phyllis Stiles/Richard Stiles

- Ashland, OR plans to take their vote any day now to be the 4th Bee City USA
- There is a sign in front of the Asheville Visitor Center and Stephanie Brown states she hears lots of positive comments from passers-by.
- A planning committee for Pollination Celebration 2015 is meeting at our hours at 6:00 p.m. this Wednesday. All are welcome to help plan.
- A committee is trying to pull together a series of workshops on alternatives to pesticides for the spring. All are welcome.
- Efforts to develop pollinator gardens in the community continue to grow with Isaac Dickson Elementary and a partnership with the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Broadway.
- UNC Asheville pollinator meadow project is underway that's to a grant from Burt's Bees. The goal is for it to have signage for educational purposes and to provide a place to take groups interested in learning more about landscaping for pollinators.
- If the city wants to develop designated milkweed areas for the monarchs. (Monarch Way stations) I know people who can help with that. More than 70 pollinators forage on milkweed, so it would help more than just the monarchs. _

Blue Ridge Arborists Association:

Mike Davies/ Mark sub for Mike

- Service day this past Saturday at a little dog park in Black Mountain. We did developmental pruning on several trees. Removed all but one stem of a Wild Cherry. Left the one stem for roosting, it was out over the creek. It was very cold.
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Asheville Greenworks:

Bob Roepnack

- No report

Education Committee:

- Nothing new to report. Working with Code Asheville on the Open Tree Map

Alternative Compliance Follow Up

Bob Gale- Urban Forest Keepers

- Proposal of how do we enforce the Tree Ordinance. How do we make sure the trees get taken care of the way they should be. We often find that it is too late or that there are notice of violations as well as fines that end up happening.
- We want to be the eyes and ears for the City and make sure that the Tree Ordinance is followed.
- The trees are put on GPS and the Tree Map that way we could see the new trees and keep their eyes open to things that are being done so we can help the City Enforcement.

Old Business and New Business:

- ***Protection of trees on private property:***

Mike and Cecil-

Cecil met with the new City Attorney and she felt that we could not designate all Trees of this size will fall under this umbrella. However, what we can do, we as the Tree Commission can come up with the strip definition of what we think an historic tree is and then City Council does have the power to protect the historic trees. It can be house by house or by neighborhood. We have to have the concrete definition and take it to Council. The current ordinance allows us to do that with the current property owner but there is no definition.

Mike will work on the definition of an historic tree and would like for us to have it ready to send up at the next meeting.

***Historic Tree of Asheville-

“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.

*** Please make changes or suggestions to Mike and he will make adjustments. Mike is waiting on a suggested change and will update everyone on the suggestion at the next meeting.

At the next meeting Mike would like to have Phyllis' suggestions for the definition so he may go ahead with finalizing it.

**The next meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

Have a wonderful Holiday season!!!!