

**Asheville Tree Commission
Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2015**

Members Present: Mike Kenton (Tree Commission- Chair); Amy Kemp (Tree Commission); Stephen Hendricks (Tree Commission); Bill Hascher (Tree Commission); Leslee Reiter (Tree Commission); Susan Roderick (Tree Commission); Debbie Emmons (Tree Commission- Vice Chair); Marc Williams (Tree Commission); Craig Fender (BRAA); Bob Gale (Urban Forest Keepers)

Staff Present: Chad Bandy (Public Works); Lora Morgan (Public Works); Mark Foster (Public Works); Greg Shuler (Public Works); Cecil Bothwell (City Council); Joey Robison

Guest: Charles Edward, Doug Johnson

The Asheville Tree Commission held its monthly meeting on **Monday, May 18, 2015** 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.

Introductions were made.

The motion was made by Leslee Reiter to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2015 Tree Commission meeting, Debbie Emmons seconded and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Directors Report:
Greg Shuler

- Today is a big day at the City with our Classification and Compensation Study.
- Recently we received the trees for our planting and they were fairly large trees. They were a bit hard to handle due to their size however they are in.
- At the City Center we had to relocate some of the storm water infrastructure to the other side of the road next to MLK Park. They designed it to save as many trees as possible, a few had to be removed but have been replaced.

Streets Manager Report:

Chad Bandy

- Last Wednesday with a large contingent of staff met for about the afternoon concerning RAD TIP – (Rivers Art District – Transportation Improvement Project)
- Very interesting street scape ideas there. Walk way amenities to climbing vines for a wall.
- We are meeting again on May 27 to discuss the street scape. Mark will be going to this meeting with me.

Trees &

Citizen Response Committee:

Mark Foster

- The large trees that Greg referred to are the downtown trees. We had to use heavy equipment to get the trees planted.
- We have a few trees left to plant on North Market.
- Doug Johnson – concerns for tree at Tod's Tasties in Montford. There will be a cite visit today at 1:30 p.m. to take a look and see what follow up may be needed.

TRC Committee Report:

Susan Roderick

- Five things on the agenda today.
- River Mill Walks on Thompson Street, we are interested in this area.

Recommended Species List:

Joey Robison

- Met with Mike and Amy last month and went over the list that the Tree Commission is recommending. We had good conversation but has not been approved by the City Council as of yet.
- Also Ken Putnam is working on updating the standards and specs where the recommended species lives, and I have a call into him to see if we can get the new list in and approved.

Duke Energy Progress:

Roy Smith

- No Report

Bee City USA:

Phylis Stiles/Richard Stiles

- No Report

Blue Ridge Arborists Association:

Mike Davies/ Craig sub for Mike:

- We had our meeting in conjunction with the City of Asheville's Arbor Day on Amboy Road.
- Mark had worked up the service day proposal. Working on Edwin and Kimberly as well as doing work on the Greenway on Broadway.
- Meeting May 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Asheville Green works:

- No Report

Education Committee:

- We are looking to get information out to the public more often. The proposal would like a Public Service announcement. We would get it out to the City of Asheville as well as the Board of Realtors.
- We could cover tree topping, this Committee, steep slope ordinance, tree care in general.
- Leslee also talked to John Boyle about doing an article on the Tree Commission and we are trying to decide how many to have printed per year. Not sure of the frequency should be however we can discuss.

Open Tree Map:

- Waiting on the new budget year for funding.

Steep Slope Ordinance:

- Steep Slope Sub Committee- Mike passed a copy of the ordinance. There is a link that you can use to see if a property is governed by this.
- We are working on updating the ordinance where we can make it enforceable.

Alternative Compliance Follow Up

Bob Gale- Urban Forest Keepers

- We have not got a group of citizens to meet, and we are trying to get back from Shannon. We had a meeting last week, kind of an orientation.
- Bob handed out a copy of Chapter 20 of the UDO and the landscape and buffering standards.
- As a Tree Commission there should be an orientation to new members that way they are up to speed as they come on.
- Where the process goes after a violation is where we are trying to follow up. We want to ensure that the standards are being followed.
- We want to be able to take a look at some recent plans that went through the Alternative Compliance so we can go out and look and see how they are proceeding now with their plantings.
- When we get a plan for Alternative Compliance we need it before we go out so we can see what we are up against.
- We will be working on the tree topping at the Skyland Fire Department and do a follow up and report back to the commission.
- We would like to be able to find the contractors than the owners for the damaged trees and also requiring permits.

Old Business and New Business:

- Greg Shuler will invite Shannon Tuch to be at next month's meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

**The next meeting is scheduled for
Monday, June 15, 2015**