



**Asheville Tree Commission
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
(Monday, November 16, 2015)**

Board Members in Attendance:

**Mike Kenton, Chair
Bill Hascher
Debbie Emmons, Vice Chair
Amy Kemp
Marc Williams
Dawn Chavez
Justin Price
Stephen Hendricks
Roy Smith
Phyllis Stiles**

Staff in Attendance:

**Greg Shuler
Chad Bandy
Lora Morgan
Mark Foster**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Debbie Emmons, 2nd by Justin Price, motion passed unanimously.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

City tree update, Mark Foster

- A. North Market Street, we have had some plantings from the construction. Trees are in the sites now. They are looking good.
- B. The roadside mowing is done for this year. Those two employees will be assisting me in getting much needed catch up work.
- C. Holiday decorations are going up

Greg:

I have had a citizen contact me that the Asheville Open Tree Map is down. They are not able to access it. Kudos to Mark and his team. They have working downtown with Parks and Recreation and APD. They have

raised the canopy on trees in Pritchard Park that will assist with the crime prevention. Mark and his crew have done an awesome job.

3. TRC, Susan Roderick

- A. No report- Susan absent
- B. Amy attended the last meeting and is looking forward to working and learning more regarding TRC.
- C. Volunteers for TRC- we will discuss when Susan is present

4. Duke Energy Progress, Roy Smith

- A. We are working in the Sandhill Road area, Sandhill School Road and the little roads in that area.

5. Bee City USA, Phyllis Stiles

- A. Sarah Coury will be attending the meetings when she can and when she can't I will be here for her.
- B. Last month I was in Washington D.C. attending the North American Pollinator Protection Conference. I become a member of the Roadside Task Force. DOT across the country are getting serious about planting native plants.
- C. The name of the NC DOT Horticulturalist who is working on pollinator habitat along roadsides is David Harris, State Roadside Erosion Control & Vegetation Management Engineer(davidharris@ncdot.gov,919-733-2920)
- D. I would like to see an article in regards to Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Phyllis will write an article in January or February to make citizens aware of the challenge and to inform them of the plantings and to register.
- E. Amber Weaver with the City of Asheville is working on the pesticide policy that the City has and work on the commitments that the City has as we became Bee City USA. We want to work to make the City as pollinator friendly as possible.
- F. Phyllis showed us the Pollinator Poster. Every year a new poster is commissioned. The poster this year will be "Trees for Bees".
- G. Rosetta's garden at the 240 bridge. It is a citizen's garden however we now have a grant that we are using on this garden. We are working on some type of protection for the garden. It gets trampled and there are trash issues. We would love to see it taken care of as it is a beautiful garden to the entrance of the City.

6. Blue Ridge Arborist, Mike Davies

- A. Service project over the weekend at Lake Tomahawk in Black Mountain.
- B. We are getting closer to getting to do service work in the City.

7. Greenworks, Dawn Chavez

- A. Tree days TDA Bank grant coming up. Any project ideas let Dawn know.
- B. Work on the community orchards are going well.
- C. Root Ball went very well.

8. Open Tree Map, Recommended Species List Amy Kemp

- A. Coming along well. Just waiting on the final with the City funding it and Scott Barnwell with the City is working on getting the technical final touches.
- B. Amy is planning on rolling it out with Dawn Chavez and Greenworks.

9. MSD, Angel Banks

No report Angel absent

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Amy will be doing an article in regards to the Open Tree Map when it rolls out.
- B. Phyllis will be doing an article on the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge
- C. Debbie will be doing an article on Tree Topping and Maintenance.
- D. Debbie will also be working on gathering the articles that were written in the past and getting them where people can have them available for use.
- E. Jim Buchanan is the person to send letters to at ACT.

11. Ravenscroft Reserve

- A. The City is going to ask the citizens to raise the funds for this project.
- B. It is a beautiful stand of timber and hopefully we can preserve it.
- C. Bob's group will serve as the grant coordinator for the group.

12. Tree Commission Retreat

- A. This will be for everyone that is on the commission
- B. We will hold it at the noon time and have the retreat in February for two hours.
- C. Public Works could possibly provide the food as in other meetings.

13. Bob Gale and the Urban Forest Keeper

- A. We will be getting the final plans from the City Planning Staff, we could keep them on file and then walk around and see if the compliance is following what they stated would happen.
- B. We will experiment with this and see how it goes.
- C. We want to help also to get trees on the Open Tree Map
- D. If the minutes could be more specific to what is agreed in Alternative Compliance so we would have something to follow up on.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Rick – in regards to steep slope in their community. Discussion of steep slope in areas. They are concerned that where they live in the Beaverdam Run in regards to steep slope.
- B. There were concerns of how it is determined if a tree must be cut down when it is an endanger to the citizens or structure damage.
- C. They would like some guidelines to steep slope as well as tree maintenance.
- D. There was discussion concerning both areas and the persons responsible for helping Rick in these areas were shared. Citizens were directed to Development Services to look for the help they need.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Working with Council to get the UDO changed where citizens would use an arborist to do any tree work.
- Steve Hendricks and Leslee Reiter positions are up for renewal. Steve would like to serve a three year term. Leslee is resigning.
- Next year of 2017 Mike will be rotating off the Tree Commission. We will need to be thinking of a new chair and vice chair.

ADJOURN

Chair *Mike Kenton* adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. without objection.

