



## PARKS & TREES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – November 2, 2017

Members Present: Bob Williams, Diana Wenman and Barb Willens

Unable to attend: Maureen Renault, Jane Miller and Thelma Rutledge

Staff: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

### **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: December 7, 2017 at 4:00pm / MEET AT CITY HALL**

The meeting was opened at 4:00 p.m. by Liz. The minutes from the October 2017 meeting were reviewed. Diana motioned to accept the minutes, Barb seconded and all approved.

### **CITY UPDATE:**

*Tennis Complex* – Construction still in progress. The irrigation system, sod and landscape plants and trees are being installed.

*Chesnut Hills subdivision* – The new sidewalks have been installed.

*Town Green Alley Project* – Completed the installation of shade sails, decorative ‘patio-style’ lighting, art work and benches with planters.

*Tree Inventory* – In September, Liz spoke with the company president, Tig Tillinghast of Urban Forest Metrix in Vermont, who provides tree inventory services for municipalities. He recently visited Camden and met with Liz, Public Works Director Tom Couch and Deputy Public Works Director Ray Peterson. During the meeting Tig explained the various features and capabilities of the software and gave a brief demonstration. The unique aspect of their software is the ability to geo-locate trees using Google earth. This reduces the time and expense associated with data field collection. In addition, they can transfer our old tree inventory data into the software and make it usable for a very reasonable rate. No decision has been made yet but things look favorable to proceed.

*Emerald Ash Borer* – Liz reported that the presence of the emerald ash borer has been confirmed in three SC counties in the upstate. This is an exotic invasive beetle that has killed 10s of thousands of ash trees throughout the northeast and Midwestern states. The EAB has been present in NC and GA for several years and it was only a matter of time before it crossed our borders. Fortunately, we have very few ash trees in our parks and along the streets but they are likely to be found along the floodplains of the Wateree River. There are no natural predators but pesticides are available to treat ash trees as a preventable precaution.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

*Potential new members:* Barb suggested that Mike Manning be contacted to check interest in the Commission. He is a Camden native who has recently moved back to town (Mill Street) and is interested in re-engaging in the community. Also discussed were Cindy Douglas and Patricia Rose who are recent residents to the city and who live on Chewing Street next door to Bob. One of the ladies used to work for a municipal or county park system in FL. Liz will try and reach out to all of them and check their interest.



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*Arbor Day 2017* – Per last meeting’s conversation, the city has decided to plant a tree in memory of Alan Wooten (deceased) of Boykin Tree Farm. Date is set for December 8<sup>th</sup> and tentative location is Kirkwood Common. The city will be partnering with the Kershaw County Soil & Water Conservation District Board and Liz will be meeting with them on November 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the specifics.

*Tree Lighting Ceremony* – Liz reminded everyone that the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at City Hall.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Leader’s Legacy Bench Recognition* – The Legacy bench for Joy and Tony Scully will be placed in Kirkwood Common on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The time of day is still to be decided. The Legacy bench for Mr. McLester has been ordered and will likely plan a ceremony for some time in January 2018. There are two more benches yet to order: Perry McCoy and Dick Lackey.

Last month it was suggested that we map out all of the locations of the Legacy benches that have been installed to date. Liz has yet to complete this. Diana volunteered to do research at the County Admin building for the property plats for the various parks.

*United Way of KC Eat Smart/Move More Committee* – This organization has funds for a fitness-related project. They would like to purchase and donate exercise equipment to the city and have it installed either at Kendall Walking Trail or Rectory Sq., according to City Planner Shawn Putnam. They are proposing either 2 or 5 stations and will be voting on the project on November 8<sup>th</sup>. After a brief discussion, the group advised that if the equipment is purchased, that it should be placed: 1) Where there is an existing walking trail, 2) Where there is ample parking and 3) Where there is plenty of room to space out the equipment. Everyone agreed that Scott Park met the above criteria and would be the best location, especially in light of the completion of the Sweet Gum trail that connects Scott and Woodward Parks.

*Natural Resources Chapter of City Comp Plan* – City Planner Shawn Putnam has asked to meet with the group and get comments regarding the updated draft of the City’s Comp Plan Chapter on Natural Resources. There is text within the chapter regarding parks and urban forestry. **We will meet in City Hall on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm for our monthly meeting during which we will meet with Shawn. Everyone is asked to at least read pages 12 to 18 and come prepared to share your thoughts.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester