

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 14, 2012

Members Present:

Deborah Davis, Kim Cates,
Jane Miller & Susan White

Members Absent:

Al Reed, Cheryl Major, Sue Truesdale & Dan Cantey

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 4th @ 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was opened at approximately 5:07 p.m. with a welcome to and introduction of all members. Deborah (as current Vice-President) asked for approval of the May 2012 minutes as written. Unfortunately a formal motion to approve the minutes could not be made as there was not a voting quorum in attendance.

Deborah and Liz provided a brief background on the workings of the Commission, Liz's role as urban forester and what each division is responsible for within the Public Works Dept.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

- * The new street and park trees continue to be watered on a weekly basis. All are doing well except for one of last years' trees is possibly dead due to over-watering by the homeowner.
- * An Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 901, Sean Riddle, organized and implemented a project for Kendall Park in July to build two picnic tables and a bench.
- * Liz will be heading up a Downtown Christmas Decoration committee. The purpose of the committee is to choose decorations along DeKalb Street which will replace the overhead street lights. Since the electric lines have gone underground, there are no tall poles to string the lights on anymore. Any decorations will most likely have to be on the pedestrian light poles which are only 16 feet tall.
- * Liz has been put in charge of procuring a mobile restroom trailer for use at the Farmers Market and the Town Green. Bids were developed, sent and received in July but only two vendors replied. The City is working on deciding what to do with the current bids.
- * Liz has been put in charge of procuring a contractor to build a brand new basketball court for Kirkwood Park. Bids were developed and sent at the beginning of the month and responses are due back on August 16th. This work is being done in-part through a PARD grant. Hopefully there will be enough funds to also purchase trash receptacles and more benches. The improvement project has to be completed before a community park picnic on Saturday, October 27th.
- * Storm damage over the summer to various trees throughout the City has occurred and as a result, two trees had to be removed due to severe damage (an oak on Hampton Street and an oak at the Public Works Office).
- * Liz has met twice with the Planning Commission regarding tree conservation issues for ordinance revisions. Their next meeting will be August 21st and the Parks & Trees Commission members are invited to attend the meeting presentation and outdoor demonstration.
- * Liz presented a program on tree identification to the Midlands Master Naturalist Association in June. Approx. 30 adults were in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business discussed.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Selection of 2012-2013 Officers: This could not be addressed as there was not a quorum in attendance.

Arbor Day Planning:

Liz shared with the group that fall of 2012 marks the 25th year of the City officially celebrating Arbor Day. She'd like to make the event community-oriented this year by involving civic groups (Boy Scouts, Rotary, Lions Club, Kiwanis, etc.) as well as schools, churches and others to plant 25 trees during the week of November 5th or 12th. The City would provide 24 trees (perhaps 10 gallon size containers) and provide them to groups who submit an application for planting and care. Depending on where the trees were planted, they would be watered by the City for the first growing season. We have yet to decide where the main ceremony will take place and the exact date.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester