

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES (FINAL) – August 5, 2014

Members Present: Jane Miller, Mary Sue Truesdale, Susan White, Deborah Davis, MJ Rowell, Thelma Rutledge and Al Reed

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT MEETING: September 2, 2014 @ 4:00PM

The meeting was opened at 4:07 p.m. by Liz. The minutes from the May 6, 2014 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jane to accept as presented, it was seconded by Sue and all approved the minutes.

CITY UPDATE:

City Tree Crew Work – One of the Electric crews is currently on loan to Liz. They are working on tree removals and deadwood pruning on trees scattered around town. Special focus is on pruning deadwood from trees in Hampton Park, Rectory Sq. Park, Boykin Park and some in Kirkwood Common and at Kendall Park. There are several dead trees that will be removed soon, specifically: Mill Street, DeKalb Street on the edge of Hampton Park and there are several in Scott Park.

Tree Planting - We had about 27 new trees planted around town in June. It was extremely late in getting them in the ground and has been scrambling to water and keep them alive so far this summer.

Above-ground planters - Approximately 20 above-ground planters have been placed along Broad Street. This is in an effort to ‘fill in’ the vacant spaces where trees used to be. The Camden Garden Club partnered with the City to provide the soil and plants. Thanks to Al (and all who were there) who joined his wife Sarah and helped out a lot. Again, the challenge will be keeping these beauties watered. The Street Dept. will be in charge of watering them three times each week since they already water the hanging baskets.

Kendall Park Improvements - City Council approved a park improvement project for Kendall Park. We will be installing approx. 20 lights along the walking trail and rehabilitating the trail by installing a recycled rubber surface. This trail material comes from shredded tires and is mixed and poured like concrete but will form a smooth surface. It will be 2 inches thick by 5 feet wide, be cushiony to walk on, allow for tree root expansion, will allow wheelchairs and strollers to effortlessly roll on the trail and last for over 15 years. The project will hopefully be completed before Christmas.

1001 Broad Street – Liz has been designated to re-design, bid out and oversee the proposed landscaping for the former Maxway building site on Broad Street. That project has to be completed before the end of September in preparation for the Blues Festival which will take place October 2 – 4, 2014. This is top priority for Liz to complete.

OLD BUSINESS

Leaders Legacy Bench Recognition Program – Deborah made some slight revisions to the original letter drafted by Al and sent it to City Manager Mel Pearson and Council in June. No word, comments or feedback has been received.

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES (FINAL) – August 5, 2014

Review of updated Parks needs list – The updated list based on our field trips earlier in the year was reviewed at the May meeting. Liz stated that many of the items identified are already being worked on and many other items will be worked on as this new fiscal year progresses.

Commission vacancies – At Council’s June meeting, they re-appointed Mary Sue Truesdale and Deborah Davis for another 3-yr. term. Also appointed for a 3-yr. term was Ms. Thelma Rutledge of the Florentine Garden Club. The group welcomed Ms. Rutledge as the newest Parks & Trees Commission member. Ms. Rutledge has served as one of the Landscape Award Program judges in the past. Deborah informed the group that she will be running for City Council in this fall’s election. If elected, she will have to resign from the Parks & Trees Commission as of January 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day 2014 – Liz shared with the group that she has already ordered give-away seedlings for the ceremony and that the City would like to honor three women who have helped maintain the front and back entrances to Kirkover Hills subdivision for many, many years. Two of the women, Gerry McBryde and Mary Catherine Norwood are still alive but the third, Emily Vereen, is deceased. All agreed these are good honorees. Al suggested that perhaps we conduct the ceremony at the Steeplechase Museum as the common entrance area to the neighborhood is not conducive for parking or a group setting. Liz will contact the Museum to see if it’s available for Friday, November 7th as well as contact Camden Elementary School to see if they can participate again this year. It was also decided to move the ceremony from 10am to 11am in the morning so that it’s not so cold. All were in agreement on all of the plans.

Margot Rochester Landscape Award Program – The group decided to review the task list at the September meeting and get an early start on planning and implementation for the upcoming award season. Liz will update all of the template information and bring to the September meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 @ 4PM

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester