

MEETING MINUTES
Urban Forest Commission
June 15, 2023

Attendees: Peter Glenn, Kevin Quinn, Kenny Allen, David Clegg, Todd Herrmann, Johnna Herrmann

Peter Glenn called the meeting of the Urban Forest Commission (UFC) to order at the Erlanger Public Works building on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes – May Meeting

The May meeting minutes were approved by Chairperson David Clegg and Kenny Allen.

Discussion Items:

Arbor Day Recap

- The event was very successful and well-executed by the City of Erlanger employees and volunteers.
- We gave away 200 sapling trees.
- The tree demonstration was very well done and well received.
- Observation: The event was well-attended by the City staff and UFC representatives, but not a lot of Erlanger residents were in attendance.

Ideas for Next Arbor Day

- Suggestion to promote the event earlier to get more residents to attend
- Could invite a Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop to help plant trees
- Could invite a church group like Calvary or St. Barbara for community service hours
- Promote on Facebook; create an event so that people can RSVP and we can get a better headcount for food planning
- Will host the next Arbor Day event in October 2024
- Suggested t-shirts, plaques/signs for people who plant the trees
- Suggested to look for a more “central” location next year. The area in front of Grammer’s market, Locust Park, open field by Perimeter, Depot Park all discussed as possibilities. Flagship Park also could use more trees in certain sections.

Ideas for Spring Tree Planting Initiative

- Discussed a tree planting program that would take place in spring 2024 (in lieu of a spring Arbor Day event). The tree would be planted in Erlanger residents or businesses’ yards.

- To save on costs, the resident would pay for the tree (\$150- \$300) and Kevin's team would install, mulch, and stake it.
- Discussed the need to perhaps have a waitlist for the program as the labor would need to be scheduled out.
- Could test this out as an experiment to see how popular it is.
- Discussed having a temporary "Installed by the City of Erlanger" tree
- This could be open to businesses too. They could have a tree installed in a pot out in front of their business.
- Similar to other programs where City employees are on private property, there may need to be a waiver.
- Johnna knows a person who was involved in the Fort Thomas tree program and will get information about how it operated.
- In the future, could consider a "replacement" program for pear trees to help mitigate the invasive wild pear tree problem.
- This program would be offered in March – May, and September – November. This is also a very busy time for Kevin and the crew so Kevin will assess feasibility and update us in the July meeting.

Project Updates

- Bonded Lock project is now known as 7 Mile Garden project. They plan on doing more plantings on the hillside. Will also install a historical rock or plaque. Going to have a ribbon cutting.

Action Items:

- Kenny will look into software applications that could be purchased to help visualize projects
- Peter will send the link to the current City of Erlanger landscape requirements to the Commission so that we can review
- Kevin will figure out the time needed to devote resources to a tree planting program.
- Johnna to find out from her contact person how the Fort Thomas tree program worked.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 20 at 4:00 p.m. Will review proposed design and review business landscape requirements

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Johnna Herrmann, UFC Secretary

APPROVED: _____

Attested by: _____ Sherry Hoffman, City Clerk