

MEETING MINUTES  
Urban Forest Commission  
August 17, 2023

Attendees: Kenny Allen, Kevin Quinn, Linda Wendelken, Meg Casper, Beth Rosplock, Todd Herrmann, Johnna Herrmann

Kenny Allen called the meeting of the Urban Forest Commission (UFC) to order at the Erlanger Public Works building on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes – July Meeting

The July meeting minutes were approved by Linda Wendelken and Kenny Allen.

**Discussion Items:**

7 Mile Garden Project

- We have the boulder and the plaque for the 7 Mile Garden.
- Ribbon cutting is on Wednesday, September 27 at 2:00 p.m.
- Press coverage: NKY Link, channels 19, 9, 106.7 radio channel
- Put up a tent in Bonded Lock, refreshments
- Mayor Fette and Councilwoman Diana Nicely will make remarks
- John Stevenson will sing My Old Kentucky Home
  - Kevin will let Todd/Johnna know if they would like a harmonica intro/after John sings
- Parking situation to be determined

Status of the Container Program

- We will prioritize the tree program and put this on hold

Spring Tree Planting Initiative

- Meg shared her experience with the Fort Thomas tree program; she has a sample of the tree application that she can share.
- It is a cost share program; the tree is guaranteed for a year; the homeowner keeps the water bag filled. The city installs the tree and mulches it.
- Cost for the tree is what the homeowner pays; \$150-200 approximately
- They had a limit, depending on budget (tree trimming, tree removal – current tree removal budget for City of Erlanger is \$10K).
- Limit to March through May; goal is to plant 5 a month.
- Meg shared the idea to save money on postage, send along with the tax bill as a filler.
- Would need to promote it/ market it on Facebook and City of Erlanger; too late for this year's tax bills. We will start promoting it in January 2024.
- The Commission with Fort Thomas decided where the tree needed to go and also work with the homeowner on where it would be placed.

- Meg will collect some information for us from the Fort Thomas program and bring it back to our next meeting.
- We will decide in the September meeting which trees we will offer.
- Covington has two arborists on staff; Erlanger works with Davy Trees.
- Site One has a wide variety of landscape products.

Kenton Lands Project

- We will be installing a butterfly garden, lighting, sculptures, fencing, etc. on Kenton Lands by Silverlake.
  - Bidded out for one butterfly and three smaller ones.
- Will be removing the boxwoods that were burned this winter.
- Discussed the possibility of “theming” the sculptures throughout the city. Keep it habitat-focused, this would also allow us to make areas more natural with wildflowers.
  - Flagship Park – could incorporate bee statues
- Start date to be decided
- Will do clearing this fall and winter; prep the area in early March.

General Discussion

- How often do we want to meet throughout the winter? Meet in September and October; consider not meeting in November and December (would need to have the Spring Tree Planting initiative marketing strategy and process ready to go in January).
- The Beautification Task Force met on Tuesday this week; some similarities in the work we do.
- War Memorial at the corner of Dixie and Commonwealth: Kevin asked us to evaluate this property and get recommendations on what to do in terms of trees/landscaping.
- Discussed we are still targeting October 2024 for the next Arbor Day celebration.

**Action Items:**

- Meg will bring us some materials from the Fort Thomas tree program.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:      Johnna Herrmann, UFC Secretary

APPROVED:

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Attested by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sherry Hoffman, City Clerk