

MEETING MINUTES
Urban Forest Commission
September 21, 2023

Attendees: Kevin Quinn, Kenny Allen, Jason James, 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, September 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes – August Meeting

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

Discussion Items:

7 Mile Garden Project

- 7 Mile project has been completed and looks great. This has been a work in progress for the last two years.
- Added significant landscaping such as holly shrubs, an Emerald Arrow pine tree, lirioppe, and daisies. Almost 400 plants have been added in this area.
- Ribbon cutting is on Wednesday, September 27 at 2:00 p.m.; everyone is welcome to attend. Parking is available at Forest Lawn cemetery or El Nopal.
- Will decorate this area for the holidays.

Spring Tree Planting Initiative

- Meg will retrieve the tree program information for us and bring it to next meeting.
- Confirmed the City can commit to planting 15 trees during the life of the program launch (March through May 2024).
- We will need to put an application together to post online. Interested citizens will select a tree from pre-determined.
- Details from the program Meg was involved in: the city purchases the tree, the resident brings the check in to the city (shared cost). The city installs the tree, mulch, and a gator bag and then checks on the tree. They did a planting in the spring and again in the fall.
- She had a selection sheet that she could get a copy for us.
- We could expand the program based on how it goes the first year.
- Ideas for tree options: red bud, dogwood, ruby sunset maple, emerald arrow, paw paw
- We will meet November 16 to firm up the plan.

General Discussion

- We will get 10 free sapling trees from Arbor Day Foundation.
- Discussed opportunities at the War Memorial at the corner of Dixie and Commonwealth: In the August meeting, Kevin asked us to evaluate this property and get recommendations on what to do in terms of trees/landscaping.
 - Feedback from commission members: The blue spruce trees look nice there and fill in the space. It would be good to remove the pear trees due to invasive nature. Talked about Lombardy Poplar trees as a possible option.
- We discussed grants and the process and option for us to apply for them. Other opportunities include Tree City USA host cities and mailing lists to join.
- Will be starting the decorative poles addition in October when adjacent to neighborhoods (38 locations in phase one).
- Kenton Lands project expected to be done in March 2024.
- Started phase three of Silverlake project and will be done before July 2024.

Action Items:

- Meg and Johnna will work on the application draft for the tree planting program and will email it to the group before the October meeting for review.
- Kevin and team will review grant application possibilities.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 19 at 4:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Johnna Herrmann, UFC Secretary

APPROVED:

Attested by:

_____ Sherry Hoffman, City Clerk