



PARKS & TREES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – September 6, 2016

Members Present: Mary Sue Truesdale, Barb Willens, Maureen Renault, Jane Miller, Thelma Rutledge, Diana Wenman and Bob Williams

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 4th at 4:00pm at Kendall Lake Clubhouse

The meeting was opened at 4:05 p.m. by Liz. The minutes from the January 2016 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Barb to accept minutes as presented, it was seconded by Jane and all approved the minutes. **No meeting minutes are available for the following months due to field trips to visit the various city parks: February, March, April and May. No meetings were scheduled for June, July or August 2016.**

CITY UPDATE:

Parks & Trees Commission member changes – The terms for Al Reed and Maureen Renault expired on May 31, 2016. Al elected not to serve another term but Maureen agreed to serve a term and submitted a new application form. Diana Wenman, a member of the Camden Garden Club, also submitted an application for consideration to fill the vacant slot left by Al. Both applications were reviewed by Council and Diana and Maureen were appointed to the Commission. Their terms end May 31, 2018.

City Arena – Landscaping has been completed however a few trees and about 14 shrubs need to be replaced due to poor drainage issues despite our efforts to regulate the irrigation system.

Cedarbrook Apts – Construction is underway and the company is retaining and protecting two large trees. They will have to plant back 106 trees, which will be incorporated into the overall landscape.

Underground utility installation – The underground utility work is still underway throughout the historic district and now also in the Mill Village.

Storm Damaged Trees – On July 7th and 8th a total of 4 separate severe thunderstorms rolled through the City. Over 70 trees were damaged, of those we have removed about 12 trees that suffered severe damage.

Wall Street projects – A Hampton Inn will be constructed on a 3 acre lot along Wall Street, the frontage road between Fox Creek Apts and the BP Station near the hwy interchange. Another commercial business will be built next door. All trees will be cleared but they will have to plant back 1 tree for each significant tree removed.

Commerce Alley – During the summer the City designed and planted a rain garden. It is being watered by hand each week until the plants are established.

Chestnut Hills subdivision – Live oaks that were planted when the houses were built over 15 years ago are damaging sidewalks, the curbing and interfering with Sanitation truck and Fire truck vehicle clearance and



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access. 28 trees will be removed and Liz is working with the individual homeowners regarding tree replacement.

Arborist Intern – A local college graduate is interested in the Arborist Intern position. Liz and Tom Couch have interviewed him and after he passes the background check, gets a physical and passes a drug test, we will proceed with hiring him on a part time basis.

Arbor Day & Tour des Trees – Big to do on October 13th - an event known as *Stihl's Tour des Trees* will be coming to the Carolinas. The *Tour* combines athletic endurance, environmental education and community engagement in a week-long celebration of urban trees. Up to 100 bicycle riders from around the country will visit communities along the route, planting trees, engaging with local tree stewards and promoting the mission of the TREE Fund. The TREE Fund is devoted to sustaining urban trees through research and education. In short, Tour riders are responsible for raising a minimum of \$3,500 per person for this noble endeavor. This is an exciting event to come our way and this year's Tour will be visiting five North Carolina cities and one South Carolina City, Camden! On Thursday, October 13th the riders will be arriving in Camden from Southern Pines, NC for an overnight stay. As such, we will combine our annual Arbor Day Tree Dedication Ceremony with an invitation-only buffet dinner to honor trees and the efforts of the Tour riders. The following sponsors will make this event possible: City of Camden (\$2500), ArborMetrics Solutions (\$1500 for happy hr. and outdoor tent), Duke Energy (\$800 for dinner venue), Trees SC (\$300 for the snack bags plus volunteer help), SC Forestry Commission (\$250 for the banners plus volunteer help), Camden Tree Foundation (\$200 to purchase trees), Sox & Freeman Tree Expert Company (\$150 for the School District buses to transport the riders to dinner and back to hotel), Parks & Trees Commission (volunteer help), CFD (volunteer help) and CPD (Police escort).

Tree City USA – The SC Forestry Commission Pee Dee Region Urban Forester Lois Edwards will be presenting our 29th consecutive Tree City award on September 13th during the Council meeting. All P&T Commission members are invited and encouraged to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks Inventory & Needs List – Deferred discussion until the November meeting

Kirkwood Park – Liz announced that the much needed repairs and new roof for the concession stand have been completed.

Margot Rochester Landscape Award Program – A brief discussion yielded some options on where to go from here in terms of continuation of the program. First, ask the Kershaw County Master Gardeners (KCMG) if they would like to assume program responsibilities and if not then ask the Camden Garden Club (CGC) or the Camden Tree Foundation (CTF). Second, look through previous year's nomination entries and choose a worthy candidate. Third, change the nomination process to reflect implementation every other year, however we've already gone three years without doing an award and if no one will lead the charge it seems ineffective to continue. Fourth, dissolve the program altogether. Since Barb will be the incoming president of the KC Master Gardeners for 2017, she said that she would present the idea to the group at MGs next meeting. In the meantime, it was decided to have Liz bring the award criteria and task list to the next meeting.



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NEW BUSINESS

Leader's Legacy Bench Recognition Program – Liz informed the group that several more folks have been nominated to receive a LLB. They include: Joe & Brenda Sullivan, Jim McGuirt and Vivian Metze. Mrs. Metze's ceremony is scheduled for September 16th at 10am at the Price House grounds. Liz asked if placement of her bench at the Price House was ok with the group and all agreed. The benches for Sullivan's and McGuirt have been ordered and hope to schedule those ceremonies for sometime this fall. The nominator for the Sullivan's bench has requested that the bench be placed in Kirkwood Common and the nominator for the McGuirt bench has requested that the bench be placed in Hampton Park. Liz asked if the placement of these benches in the locations mentioned was ok with the group and all agreed. A brief discussion occurred regarding the placement of benches at various locations and the eventual saturation of the more popular parks to be overwhelmed with benches. It was mentioned that perhaps we need to set a limit on how many benches can be/should be placed in certain parks. Lastly, we have yet to do the bench dedication ceremony for former Mayor Mary Clark due to the prolonged illness and recent passing of her sister. We hope to schedule something for this fall as well.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester

APPROVED