



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Tree Board

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

5:00 PM

City Hall
Conference Room 1B

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM.

City Staff present: Danielle Fox, John Townsend, and Steve Fritz

Guests from Ridgeway Neighborhood Association: Pat Kelly, Leszec Vincent, and Katherine Speichinger

Guest presenter: Jessica Hardesty Norris, Biohabitats

Present: 6 - Jacob McMains, Samuel Wright, Stephen Bybee, Patricia Quackenbush, Sloane Scott and Max Miller

Excused: 1 - Michael Kyd

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Yes: 6 - McMains, Wright, Bybee, Quackenbush, Scott and Miller

Excused: 1 - Kyd

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Yes: 6 - McMains, Wright, Bybee, Quackenbush, Scott and Miller

Excused: 1 - Kyd

V. COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

Wright welcomed guests from the Ridgeway Neighborhood Association and talked about the Tree Board goal of planting trees in underserved parts of the community. Fritz talked about the timeline of the project and presented a conceptual planting plan for the Ridgeway neighborhood. Kelly spoke about the history of the property and the importance of greenspace for the community. She then invited the board to the January neighborhood association meeting. Quackenbush asked if the city had looked into federal programs to assist with protections for the site, as most of it occurs in floodplain. The Tree Board briefly discussed next steps and will continue the discussion at their next meeting.

VI. REPORT ON NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Norris gave a presentation to the board about the 2022 NRI. The focus mainly surrounded different land cover classes, but specifically canopy coverage. The new data was compared to the previous NRI data collected in 2007. Fox shared where information could be found on the City's website and talked about how the information can be used when making management decisions in the future. Townsend spoke about the technical elements of the interactive map online. Quackenbush asked if raw data was available to the public. Townsend said typically not, but agreements had been made in the past. McMains commented on how valuable this information will be for establishing canopy goals for the city.

VII. TREE BOARD BUDGET

The board discuss the budget for the new fiscal year. Bybee suggested a sponsorship for next year's Missouri Community Forestry Council conference. Quackenbush suggested combining funds from travel training and sponsorship as the conference is being held locally this year. Scott suggested attending and potentially sponsoring the Ridgeway Funday. Fritz was asked to order more Tree Board stickers for outreach.

VIII. WORK CALENDAR

The board talked about next steps for the planting project and grant. Bybee offered to write the proposal for the application process and asked Fritz to share relevant information. They then discussed exploring the process of establishing a city tree fund. Both items will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

IX. REPORT FROM LIAISON

No report was given due to time constraints.

X. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

McMains spoke to the group about the outreach event at the farmer's market. He commented on the positive response and people interested in purchasing Tree Board merchandise.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be December 20th.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Yes: 6 - McMains, Wright, Bybee, Quackenbush, Scott and Miller

Excused: 1 - Kyd

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload. (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)