

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
FORT THOMAS TREE COMMISSION  
FORT THOMAS CITY BUILDING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Joey Hood, Chair  
John Martin, Vice Chair  
Mike Rice  
Leonard Beck  
Rex McBride  
Barbara Manyet

**ABSENT:** John Cody

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sam Shelton, Administrative Assistant  
Cheri Scherpenberg, G.S. Administrative Assistant

Joey Hood presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes**

Members reviewed the minutes from the March 14, 2023 meeting. A motion was made by Rex McBride and seconded by Leonard Beck to approve the March minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Visitors & Communications**

Joe Shaw was in attendance to give a presentation educating the Tree Commission members about proper planting and mulching. Mr. Shaw hopes to help prevent superficial, girdling roots and the attraction of insects or fungal disease. Mr. Shaw noticed that some of the trees around the city are in need of attention for health and longevity.

Melanie Powers was in attendance and addressed the need for the education of Public Works and Green Space employees. She also requested an update about the trees that were cut near 1 Alexander Circle.

Joey Hood expressed his concern of possible compaction complications for the trees around the Mess Hall. He is interested in the amount of traffic due to events, Farmers Market, etc.

### **B) Earth/Arbor Day: April 30**

- The Fort Thomas Forest Conservancy is celebrating Arbor/Earth Day for the 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- Open volunteer spots were filled by our TC members
- It was suggested that handouts from the presentation by Joe Shaw with Davey Tree Experts be passed out at the Arbor Day event for further community education on the issue.

### **C) T. C. Bios & Goals for 2023**

Members provided bios that detail their experience, strengths and interests to help prioritize areas to focus on for the 2023-24 year.

Goals that were proposed:

- Community Education
- The roles of Tree Commission members
- Tree canopy assessment & financial commitment
- Landmark Tree Trail
  - Would be a massive project with physical labor required.
  - Would need to address bridges and access
  - Area has been dormant for 7-8 years
  - Formation of subcommittees for different areas of focus
  - Leonard Beck interested in taking lead with help from Rex McBride
- Highland Hills Park
  - Disk golf course reset in progress due to conflict with baseball
  - Honeysuckle clearing by volunteers
- Front Yard Tree Planting Program
  - A large individual member time commitment

- Could use Arbor Day to promote
- Associate with street resurfacing program to keep manageable
- Consider making online resources available to educate about species, locations, canopy coverage, etc.

- Mission Statement

- Vision, values, by-laws, representation, foundation & key phrases
- Organizational leadership, Speak with John Cody about interest in helping to compose.

#### **D) Tree Removal Requests**

- A motion was made by Mike Rice and seconded by John Martin to keep and monitor the tree located at the **Highland Hills Park Ballfield**. Motion Approved
- A motion was made by John Martin and seconded by Leonard Beck to keep, monitor and dead limb the tree located at **103 Rosemont Ave**. Motion Approved
- A motion was made by Rex McBride and seconded by Mike Rice to remove the tree located at **183 Tremont Ave**. Motion Approved

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Barb Manyet and seconded by Mike Rice to adjourn the meeting.