

CHATTANOOGA TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2015

Members Present: , Sally Wencel, Jan Pass, Mariah Prescott, Craig Walker, Lisa Lemza, Glen Craig

Members Absent: Hill Craddock, Deborah Kendrick,

Staff Present: Gene Hyde

EPB Representative: George Morgan

Guests: Erica Lewis

Sally called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

The July meeting minutes were approved as written.

The items on the agenda were handled in the following manner:

1. Old Business.

A. Citizen Forester Classes. Lisa reported that she has worked to reserve three sites for the classes:

1. October 3rd Audubon Acres This will be a basic level class.
2. October 17th Greenway Farm This also will be a basic level class.
3. November 21st The Barn Nursery.

The Tree Commission decided on the following aspects of the classes:

Marketing: The social media sites for Facebook, List Serve, Master Gardener, Wild Ones, Sustainable Chattanooga, Chattanooga Now and others will be contacted with the promotional flyer. Sally will update the flyer and convert it to a pdf..

Class size: Class size will be limited to 25.

T-Shirts: Mariah will handle this detail.

Tree give-away: There will be a total of 30 each of the native dogwoods and redbuds available for give-away to each participant after the Advanced class on November 21st.

Teachers: October 3rd. Mariah and Erica

October 17th. Gene and Jon Nettle

November 21st. Gene and Jon Nettle

Drinks for the class: Mariah will order something for the class to drink.

B. TC New Member update. City Hall has said that they would have several new board appointments go through City Council on Tuesday, September 1. Erica Lewis should be officially appointed at that time.

C. The “If Trees Could Sing” and “Blue Trees” initiative. Gene explained these two initiatives and said that he and Mariah would be meeting with reps from the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, Arts Build, The Nature Conservancy, and other organizations to strategize about organizing and funding these initiatives in Chattanooga. The meeting will occur on the afternoon of Thursday, August 21.

D. The Notable Tree Register. There are now two applications for this register. Gene volunteered to review both of them. The following TC members will review any new applications from these areas:

Glen Craig: Northshore

Mariah: The Southside

Lisa: Brainerd

Craig Walker: Highway 58

Jan: Tyner

Sally: Hixson

2. **New Business**

A. 2015 – 2016 Tree Planting. Gene reported that he will be planting fewer trees this season – probably because of increased rainfall and fewer trees hit by motorists. He also said that the Take Root account will be contributing \$5,000 towards the purchase of the 50 streetscapes trees (Valynor Trident Maple) which will be planted on Rossville Blvd.

B. Operational Report. Gene said that he has received 540 service requests and that figure is below the historical average for a typical year. Gene attributes this low number to fewer strong storms this year. Also he needs another TC member to volunteer to be an approver for purchases against the Take Root account at the Community Foundation. Sally volunteered for this since she works downtown and is relatively close by.

C. Landscape Architect’s Report. Karna reported that she and Mariah had attended a professional conference in Georgia and brought back materials that will be useful in her work. Karna is preparing a training session with these materials for some of her colleagues.

D. Possible locations for Arbor Day. Gene said that he is working with both TVA and Hamilton County Commissioner Warren Mackey to produce a tree planting plan for Murray Hills Park. Gene will submit the plan for both the Parks Division and the TVA for approval. The TVA has several large transmission towers there and TVA restrictions on tree sizes apply at this location. Warren said that he would be OK with having an Arbor Day celebration ther followed by a Volkswagen Tree Planting Day on the following Saturday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01P.M.

Action Items

A. Gene will:

1. Evaluate the two pending Notable Trees applications.
2. Approach Jon Nettle about helping to teach two Citizen Forester classes.

B. Mariah will:

1. Order T-shirts for the Citizen Forester class students.
2. Order juice or some other beverage for the Citizen Forester students.
3. Distribute Citizen Forester flyers on social media.

C. Craig Walker will:

1. Reserve The Barn Nursery for the November 21st Citizen Forester Class.
2. Order 30 redbud and 30 native dogwoods to hand out to the students.

D. Sally will:

1. Make the final tweaks to the Citizen Forester flyer and send the copy to Mariah and others.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 15th at 4:00 P.M. in the DRC Room 2-A