



**Horticulture, Ecology and Beautification Committee
Committee Meeting Agenda
September 8, 2015
4:30 PM
Meeting Room 2**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Approval of August 18, 2015 Horticulture, Ecology and Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Emerald Ash Borer Subcommittee Update***
 - B. Arbor Day Celebration - May 1, 2016 1-3 PM***
 - C. Farmers Market Plant Swap - Oct 10, 2015 7:30 AM-12 PM***
- 6. New Business**
 - A. Upcoming Meetings***
 - i. Golf Course Needs Assessment - Sept 16, 2015, 6-7 PM**
 - ii. Comprehensive Plan Update Public Workshop - Sept 21, 2015 6:30-8:30 PM**
 - iii. Required Biennial Ethics Training - Oct 12, 2015 6-7 PM**
 - iv. Comprehensive Plan Update Stakeholder Focus Group - Nov 4, 2015 5:15 PM**
 - v. HEB Meeting - Nov 10, 2015 4:30 PM**
- 7. Business from Members**
- 8. Business from Staff Liaison**
- 9. Adjourn**



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1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Fran Cantor	Board Member	(Absent)
Susan Baseley	Vice-Chair	
Rachel Eilbott	Board Member	
Tracy Grass	Chair	
Nancy Meyer	Board Member	
Margie Richards	Board Member	
James Graham	Board Member	(Absent)
Claire Chosid	Board Member	
Sharon Stott	Asst to the City Administrator	
AJ Wang	Councilman	
Cory Gettemeier	Golf Maintenance Superintendent	
Katie Dixon	Market Coordinator	
Jason Valvero	Director of Recreation	

3. Approval of Agenda

Committee agreed to move New Business before Old Business due to guests in attendance.

4. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of July 8, 2015 Horticulture, Ecology and Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes

Nancy Meyer moved to accept the minutes from the HEB meeting on July 8, 2015. Sue Baseley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [5 TO 0]
AYES:	Baseley, Eilbott, Grass, Meyer, Richards
ABSTAIN:	Chosid
ABSENT:	Cantor, Graham

5. Unfinished Business

A. Emerald Ash Borer Subcommittee Update

1. EAB Subcommittee Meeting Summary

Summary: EAB Subcommittee Meeting Summary from August 9, 2015.

Tracy Grass briefly discussed the subcommittee meeting highlights from August 9, 2015.

- Subcommittee agrees the focus of educational information should include:
 1. State / define problem
 2. How to identify an ash tree?
 3. Information about the infestation of EAB

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4. Mitigating options to be taken by community
5. Methods of message distribution

Action Items:

- Subcommittee is meeting again to begin drafting an article for newsletter and will let Sharon Stott know the time and meeting location for posting.
- Subcommittee will obtain information from reliable source (Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri Extension, etc.)
- Sharon Stott will resend information she received during her research/contact with aforementioned organizations.

B. Arbor Day Flyer

Tracy Grass showed the Arbor Day Art Contest flyer to a Parkway art teacher. He recommended an 8th grade student to redesign the flyer. Tracy did not think the student had Adobe InDesign, the software was used to create the draft flyer.

The art teacher suggested the following changes: 1) enlarge picture of winning artwork; 2) subtitle for picture "award winner" instead of "honorable mention" 3) move rules to the back of flyer. Other suggestions from committee members included separating names of committees and removing italics the middle paragraph.

Actions Items:

- Tracy Grass, Rachel Eilbott and Margie Richards will meet with Bess McCoy for an hour to make above changes on flyer.
- Sharon Stott to check Bess McCoy's availability for 1:30 p.m. on a Wednesday or Friday in the next couple of weeks.

6. New Business

A. Audubon International Certification of Golf Course

The HEB requested that Cory Gettemeier, Golf Maintenance Superintendent, provide a summary of the green practices at the Creve Coeur (CC) Golf Course as it pertains to the Audubon International Certification for Golf Courses. The CC Golf Course has been an Audubon member since 2002. Below is a recap of the information Cory discussed:

Cultural Practices

- First line of defense in keeping pest populations to a minimum
- Maintain proper mowing heights
- Smooth vs. Grooved rollers
- Rolling, venting, verticutting, core aerating, topdressing, hand watering, etc.
- Improving air movement and sunlight
- All used to keep turf stress free
- Stress = need for more inputs (pesticides, fertilization, irrigation)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- Scout, Scout, Scout!
 - Constantly looking for signs of stress
 - Determine damage thresholds from pests



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- Soil tests and tissue tests to determine nutrient levels - make sure we aren't applying more than the plant needs

Pesticide Use

- ONLY when cultural practices fail to keep pest populations below damage threshold levels, pesticides are utilized
- Monitor damage thresholds and only apply when these thresholds are met/exceeded
- Chemicals applied by or under the supervision of trained and certified pesticide applicator.
- Chemical labels are ALWAYS followed
- Proper application timing reduces chances of runoff, leaching, drift, etc...
 - Proper timing intervals, spray early mornings, monitor weather forecasts
- Use of spray adjuvants and surfactants to make products more effective
 - Acidifiers, stickers
- Fungicides:
 - Constant monitoring of fungicide program to ensure rotation of pesticide families (Frac codes) in order to minimize resistance
 - Newer chemical formulations allow varying and more specific modes of action which can substantially reduce rates of application
 - Ounces/acre vs ounces/1000 ft²
- Herbicides:
 - Chemical rotation to minimize resistance
 - Only use in playable turf areas
- Insecticides:
 - Safer chemistries than ever before
 - *Acelepryn* gives season long control with one application at low use rate
 - Scout for damage thresholds on other turf/ornamental areas

Fertilization

- Proper timing/conditions
- Soil tests
- "Spoon fed" foliar fertilizers on greens
- Organic fertilizers
 - Fairways/tees: 30% organic based fertilizers
 - Greens: >20% organic based
 - Barriers for more organic use
 - Cost: "Nature Safe" 27-0-2 = \$38/bag vs "MESA" 25-0-5 = \$22/bag
 - Negative effect on play
 - Constant study of market to determine uses for newer organic technologies
 - *Ocean Organics* seaweed extract
- Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs)
 - Used to slow the growth of turf
 - Reduce inputs
- Wetting Agents
 - Make water *more* effective
 - Removes water repelling molecules from soil; allows higher water holding capacity and water availability to plant
 - Decrease amount of irrigation applied

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Water Management

- Irrigation:
 - Irrigate as close to morning as possible to minimize evapotranspiration (ET) losses
 - Practice deep and infrequent irrigation cycles
 - Promote deeper, larger roots = less need for water
 - Hand water in A.M. and P.M. to delay having to run irrigation
 - Use “part circle” sprinklers to minimize water waste
 - Current system has many inefficiencies
 - Over 40 years old; technology from the 1960’s (Hydraulic control)
 - Low pressure causes longer run times in order to make up for inefficiencies which leads to waste
 - No pump to maintain pressure
 - No central control to monitor water uses
 - No weather station to monitor ET rates
- Ponds:
 - Over an acre of water; home to water fowl, frogs
 - 28% naturalized surrounds - no maintenance or chemical use of any kind
 - 35% buffered by gabion rocks - spot spray weeds or hand pull
 - 37% turf leading up to edge. 1-15 foot buffer from mower or chemicals. Weed eat grasses every 3 weeks
 - Erosion control needed at #5 pond
 - Losing pond banks which helps lead to runoff issues
 - Destabilization of dam, cart path.
 - Stagnant, shallow water leads to abundance of algae increase need of chemicals

Wildlife Management

- Nearly 7 acres of naturalized (no mow) area on the property
 - No tree removal (other than when safety risk present)
 - Many habitants; birds, foxes, raccoons, minks, mice
- 19 birdhouses
 - Used as yardage markers for golfers
 - Set up in spring and taken down after nesting season to be cleaned or rebuilt
 - Sparrows, Purple Martins

Equipment

- John Deere 2500E
 - Hybrid Greensmower
 - Battery powered reels, allows lower throttle RPM to get same clip speed while mowing = fuel savings
- Salsco roller
 - All electric driven roller

Audubon International Certification of Golf Course

- Positives:
 - IPM strategies leading to reduced pesticide use

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- Amount of naturalized areas
- Irrigation practices
- Birdhouses
- Challenges:
 - Chemical storage
 - prefer using a detached, fireproof, ventilated building with limited personnel access (cost upwards of \$15,000)
 - no current plans in future for maintenance building renovation
 - Water Conservation
 - Cost of irrigation upgrades: \$100 - \$200/head replacement (approx. 250 heads)
 - Complete system renovation is on 5 yr CIP (\$260,000 - \$460,000)
 - Water Quality Management
 - No pollution control in or out of property
 - Dam leaking
 - Erosion issues
 - Cost of pond/dam reconstruction \$500,000
 - Habitat Management
 - Invasive plant species throughout forest areas
 - Cost and labor associated with removal of existing vegetation and replanting with native species

*Cart path reconstruction anticipated in near future (\$500,000)

Other

- 50 acres of property; 7 acres are native - not weeded, mowed or sprayed
- Bat houses may be a nice addition to property

Council member AJ Wang and staff liaison Sharon Stott mentioned there was a recent City Council work session discussing the economic condition of CC Golf Course compared to neighboring 9-hole municipal courses. Discussion at the work session also included as to whether to keep the golf course should be kept as a course, turn it into a park or sell a portion of the property and use the money to purchase a new government center.

Committee discussed sending a memo to the Mayor and City Council in support of keeping the Creve Coeur Golf Course as an amenity to residents.

Action Items:

- Sue Baseley moved that the HEB recommend the continued support and promotion of the Creve Coeur Golf Course and its continuing use of green practices and management strategies as outlined by the Audubon International Certification of Golf Courses. Nancy Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Sue Baseley moved that the HEB recommend the City support the continuation and maintenance of the Creve Coeur Golf Course as a City-owned property in its entirety.

B. Farmers Market - Plant Swap

Market Manager Katie Dixon discussed an idea from Councilmember Ellen Lawrence for the Farmer's Market to have a plants swap as one of the bi-weekly events. Approximately 100-200 people attend each Saturday.

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Katie was looking for suggestions from the HEB. Committee recommended:

- October 10, 9 a.m. to noon was the date selected because fall and spring are a good time to divide plants, gather seed
- Plant swaps to occur on the hour from 9-noon to spread out opportunity for different people
- Open to natives, perennials, house plants, seeds, heirloom plants, vegetable plants, trees
- Each person wanting to swap plants should bring three plants and receive three tickets to trade for other plants
- Promote in newsletter (deadline September 1); Facebook and Twitter
- Leftover plants are inevitable; think about what to do with them
- Opportunity for educational component about recycling plastic pots and invasive plants
- Plants can be tagged with popsicle sticks or with short stories about unique plants with a history

Action Items:

- Claire Chosid will dig up plants at Tappmeyer House prone to damage from recent renovations.
- Claire Chosid to email Katie Dixon short invasive plant list.
- Tracy Grass to contact Northeast Middle School to see if they want to participate since they have a garden.
- Committee members asked to be in attendance to man booth table on October 10, from 7:30 to noon.
- Committee members that cannot attend are asked to provide plants to Tracy Grass and she will transport to Farmer's Market.

7. Business from Members

No business from HEB members.

8. Business from Staff Liaison

Sharon Stott said she would keep the HEB informed of additional City Council work sessions or regular meetings that include discussion about the golf course.

9. Adjourn

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