



COLORADO TREE COALITION

Broomfield

DATE: 09/27/08

LOCATION: BROOMFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
280 Lamar St, Gold Room

TIME: 10:00 – 2:30

MINUTES

I. Meeting Called to Order and Introductions – Tom Wells

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 by Tom Wells.

Members present were: David Flaig, Gertie Grant, Donna Davis, Tom Wells, Keith Wood, Becky Wegner, Vince Urbina, Kristin Drye, Neal Bamesberger, Karen Scopel, Ralph Campbell, and Michael Swanson

II. Approval of Minutes – Tom Wells

Motion to approve the minutes of the January was made by Gertie Grant and seconded by Neal Bamesberger. Motion carried.

III. Acceptance of Treasurer Report – Becky Wegner

Becky Wegner distributed the Treasurer's Report. She noted that Trees Across Colorado raised \$12000 for CTC. Membership dues are up thanks to Kristin Drye's efforts. The funds budgeted for Western Colorado Conference won't be needed. Becky reported that the accounting company CTC uses was sold to another company. Due to the timing they filed for an extension for filing CTC's taxes. They are due in November. Something had happened last year and the IRS fined CTC for late fees but following a letter of explanation they dropped the late fees. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Karen Scopel, seconded by Ralph Campbell. Motion carried.

IV. New Business

A. Outlook for the 2009 Grants Program – Keith Wood/David Flaig

David Flaig distributed a report listing the 2008 grant applications and what was awarded. Several members noted a need to encourage communities to submit applications that will meet the criteria for the Xcel funds for projects under power lines. There was a brief discussion about other grant funds from Xcel for energy conservation projects. These are funded through the Xcel Energy Foundation rather than from an operational fund that has been used to provide funds for tree projects under power lines.

David suggested that the grant maximum be lowered to \$1500, only fund planting projects and limiting the funds to small communities. Ralph and Becky suggested that small

communities be given bonus points (5) to help them be more competitive. It was decided that “small community” = 10,000 population or less served by the project. There was discussion about not allowing back to back awards. It appears that available grant funds will be \$7500 which could provide at least 5 grants at \$1500 each. Ralph Campbell made a motion to put \$7500 minimum into grant program for 2009, reduce grant maximum to \$1500, give 5 bonus points to communities with 10,000 pop or less and no back to back grant awards. Becky seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. CommuniTree Awards – Ralph Campbell for Phil Hoefler

Ralph reported that the recipient of the CommuniTree Award has been selected by the committee and the award will be made later this year. He was not able to release the name at this time.

C. Poster Guides and Judging – Donna Davis

Donna reported that 1700 children participated in the 2008 program. This year the poster judging was done following a FRUFC meeting. The winner was from Littleton. The posters were again on display at the capitol for 2 weeks. Lots of other local events and recognition happen. The 2009 theme is Trees are Terrific...In Cities and Towns. Postcards announcing the program have been sent out in an effort to reduce bulk mailings and maybe get better response. Donna has done a great job with the program and everyone hopes Colorado will have the national winner next year.

D. Champion Tree Slides – Neal Bamesberger

Neal distributed a proposal to scan and edit photos (slides) to make them suitable for the web site by having images in a lower resolution that does not require a lot of memory and download time. The cost would be \$2.35 per slide for 175-200 slides. The cost to convert 200 slides would be \$470 and the files would be delivered on a DVD to be used on the web site Champion tree page. There may be additional costs to post them to the web site. Neal Bamesberger made a motion to spend a maximum of \$500 to have the slides scanned (funds from Champion Tree budget). Costs (est \$1000 but probably less) to post to web site would come from Special Projects budget. Gertie Grant seconded the motion. Vince noted that we should protect the privacy of landowners. Neal noted that the website only gives the city as the location. Motion carried.

Becky noted that there has been a request to use calendar photos in a book. Ralph suggested that the calendar committee bring a policy recommendation regarding providing use of photos to non-CTC interests to the January meeting for the board to consider.

E. Ordway ReForest Colorado Request – Ralph Campbell

Ralph presented a written request for \$9995 from Reforest Ordway, CSU Ext, and CSFS to fund a project to replace windbreak and landscape trees that were lost in the fire this past April. Ralph suggested that CTC provide \$7500 from the Reforest Colorado Fund. Karen suggested that the Reforest Ordway committee could find other donors for things like the drip system and landscape fabric. Ralph suggested that CTC hold a meeting in Ordway when the planting is scheduled and then assist with the planting project. Press releases and invitations to donors and government officials should be done. It would be timely to do the planting in early April – both from weather and anniversary of event. Gertie also suggested that TAC could be involved (great prices!) and delivery is in mid-April. A motion was made by Ralph Campbell to fund the Reforest Ordway request up to \$7500 and that an abbreviated CTC meeting be held in Ordway so that CTC can be involved by providing assistance with the tree plantings. The motion

was seconded by Gertie. Motion carried.

Ralph reported that another tree planting was done through Reforest Colorado. The name change from Community Disaster Fund to Reforest Colorado is nearly done with the Secretary of State. A marketing plan is being prepared to assist with finding sponsors and doing projects.

Other New Business:

Vince passed around a sign up sheet for the Feature Tree articles for the web page for 2009.

Becky presented a request from Peak to Prairie Landscape Symposium for funding support for their next conference. Becky made the motion that CTC sponsor the PPLS for \$150 from the special projects budget. Ralph seconded the motion. Becky thinks CTC can have a booth and should receive a complimentary conference ticket. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

A. Items needed for the 2008 Report to the State Forester – Tom Wells

Tom asked for items to include in the report. It will probably be similar to last year's. Ralph noted he'd like it ready by mid-January.

B. Update Strategic Plan – Tom Wells/Chairs of Committee's (**Committee chairs are to revise their section of the plan along with dates and present at the meeting.**)

CTC board needs to be more strategic and identify what can realistically be accomplished in the next 3 years. Ralph noted that the Federal Urban and Community Forestry Plan (UCFP) is in the process of being redesigned and the perspective of "community" is being rethought. He thinks this will be to CTC's benefit if we align our strategic plan with that perspective. One issue of concern is that the new Farm Bill does not require states to have a tree council as it did in the past and this may impact funding. That makes it more important that CTC align itself with the UCFP.

C. Bylaws Changes – Michael Swanson

Michael will prepare draft changes to the bylaws to address organizational changes for action at the January 2009 meeting.

VI. Strategic Planning Committees

A. Board Development – Scott Grimes/Michael Swanson – no report (haven't been able to schedule the golf game/committee meeting)

B. Marketing and Outreach – Ralph Campbell – no report

C. Program Development – Tom Wells

Tom and Keith visited with IES regarding carbon sequestration and how CTC might be involved to help small communities take advantage of the carbon credits program.

It was noted by several board members that all existing programs (TAC, grants, calendar, champion tree, awards, etc) need to develop and write up Standard Operating Procedures so that other members can step into managing the programs when the currently involved individuals step down from those responsibilities.

VII. Program Reports

A. Grants – David Flaig – see above

B. Champion Tree – Neal Bamesberger – received a few nominations over the summer.

C. Notable Tree Calendar – Becky Wegner – new 2009 calendars are out. Everyone needs to get people to order calendars so the program can be profitable. Members get one free calendar. Becky needs new members on the committee, especially someone to pursue sponsors. Without sponsors the calendar won't happen.

D. Membership – Kristin Drye – 275 total members. 159 renewed from mailing reminders and 69 new members. She didn't have information about where the new members came from.

E. Awards – Wendy Ball/Phil Hoefer – see above.

F. Trees Across Colorado – Gertie Grant distributed the list of trees for 2009. She was very creative with this year's offerings and noted that she wants to provide information regarding xeric suitability but was not able to access the archives of feature trees from the CTC web site. She noted that having Donna at the unloading was very, very helpful. Things went very smoothly this year and she hopes that 2009 is even better. As noted earlier, the program raised \$12000 above expenditures for CTC's benefit.

VIII. Chapter Reports

FRUFC – Tom Wells – meetings well attended.

IX. Other Business

A. Election of Officers – Michael Swanson presented the following slate of candidates for 2009:

President – Tom Wells
Vice President – Neal Bamesberger
Secretary – Karen Scopel
Treasurer – Becky Wegner
At Large – Mike McGill
At Large – Gertie Grant
Past President – Mike Swanson

Motion by Ralph Campbell, second by Neal Bamesberger to approve and elect the slate as given. Motion carried.

B. Meeting Structure: suggestion to have more frequent but shorter meetings. This might improve communication. One idea is to hold 2 meetings in Denver metro since most board members are along the Front Range and then have a 3rd meeting that includes a project such as the Ordway tree planting. It was also noted that it's not necessary to hold the January meeting concurrent with Pro-Green as that program now has sessions that conflict with holding a Friday CTC meeting as has been done in the past. The 2009 meeting schedule will tentatively be:

January 23rd – VOC
Late March-early April – Ordway
Fall - date and location TBD

X. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.