

KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:31 am. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Gordon Coker, Sylvia McLaurin, Brian O'Connor, Melissa Hinten, Bob Graves, Elaine Reed, Charlotte Rodina and Jessica Rodocker.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Jessie Hillman, Tim Hester, Aoife Whitaker, David McGinley, Lee Rumble, Ben Nanny and Melanie Overall.

Action Items for October

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- Motion to approve July, August and September minutes made by Charles Kwit, second by Gordon Coker. All in favor, none opposed.

City Update: Kasey Krouse

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- Introductions were made around the room to introduce new board members.
 - Kasey stated board minutes are posted on the City website if anyone needs to review any older ones.
 - Trees Knoxville Volunteer Forester class will finish up the week of October 16th. Had close to 40 in attendance at last night's class, which is the largest.
 - UFMP open house went well with the mayor and half of council attending.
 - Visited nursery and tagged trees for fall planting. Wrapping up the location sites.
 - TAEP grant will provide for 4 locations: Tarleton, Parkview, Cecil, & Clearview Streets.
 - Plantings planned for Holston Dog Park and Fountain City Dog Park.
 - Regulatory issues at 1950 Forest Avenue regarding stormwater issues.
 - North Hills Garden Club has requested plantings.
 - Jessica, Jessie and Bob are looking at landscaping codes and is open for anyone to join. Jessica and Bob are drafting letter from the Tree Board to the mayor to form committee to look at codes improvement. Jessica suggested contacting other cities to see their ordinances.

Trees Knoxville Update: Sophie Carter

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- Dogwood Arts contacted her to see if Trees Knoxville is interested in partnering with them for dogwood tree giveaway in December.

- Had a good year with Volunteer Forestry program and sent information to community groups to gain interest for upcoming classes.
- Citizens Cemetery cleanup on 9/9 was very successful.
- Trees Knoxville received \$1.7 million grant. May hire another staff member and will provide funding for new programming in underserved areas. TVA grant is in the works.
- Kasey would like grant money to be spent in Justice 40 neighborhoods, which is underserved areas in the form of environment, transportation, etc. There is different criteria to be a Justice 40 neighborhood. Would like to do tree plantings with the help of KCDC and KCS properties being involved. Would like to see Volunteer Forester program for the Hispanic communities and Afro-American cemeteries to be repaired and restored to be more easily maintained. Tim has several opportunities for the City parks. UT received \$2.4 million grant for underserved communities.

Education Update: Gordon Coker

- Melissa will write the October article.
- Gordon and Sylvia met about exploring different avenues to communicate. Would like to get with neighborhood organizations to get needs. Once needs are received, they will compile a list of list of ways to communicate information.

Urban Forest Master Plan Update: Bob Graves

- On 9/13, UFMP meeting open to the public went well. Plan writing has begun, executive summary will come after that. The draft release will be in November and will go to the public for review. Once finalized, the design will go into a plan that will be received the first of the year.

Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Tim/COKP&R reported the storm damage is mostly cleaned up in the parks with a few stumps left to grind. There will be a repair/pave program at 3rd Creek Greenway starting the week of 10/9. A portion of it will be closed for 3-5 weeks.
- Elaine/KUB reported they are working in the North Hills area, Adair Park and Tyson Park. They will begin tree plantings the end of October.
- Lee/UT Extension reminded everyone of the conference 10/12-10/13 at Fall Creek Falls. The nursery tour is 10/24-10/26 in McMinnville and registration cost ranges from \$300-420, which includes lodging. There are 9 stops on the tour. Hosted Marble Springs Tree Walk on 9/15 and had 64 people. There were a lot of families and home schooled kids in attendance.

- Ben/ljams – first round of Weed Warriors is 11/4 at Collier Preserve. There are 5 or 6 volunteers who are ready to lead groups. Let him know if you know of any sites for him to check out.
- Jessie/Knox Co. Planning – Planning Commission meeting today at 1:30. She will email link for comment. Resident is requesting ordinance amendment for landscaping buffer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Upcoming Events

- October 21st – Pond Gap Elementary food forest cleanup to obtain access to the trees for later pruning. 8:00am-11:00am.
- November 3rd – Keep Knoxville Beautiful program “Reimagining the Asphalt Jungle”, East Tennessee History Center. Admission is free and a free lunch, registration required.
- November 6th, 2:00 pm – Arbor Day at Harriet Tubman Park. Planting 14 trees.
- January 18-19, 2024 – Grounds Management