

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 2, 2023**

---

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:34 am. Other board members present were Gordon Coker, Charles Batey, Jessica Rodocker, Kelsey Jones, Kayla Stuart, Sylvia McLaurin, Charles Kwit and Elaine Reed.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, Sophie Carter, Allison Kelly, Sam Adams, Diane Warwick and Melanie Overall.

**Action Items for March**

---

- Once quorum reached, Dan motioned for February minutes to be approved. All in favor; none opposed.

**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

---

- No ordinance violations to report for February.
- Trees Knoxville will host education series the last Wednesday in April and first three Wednesdays in May (4 total). Topics will be planting, pruning, etc.
- Quite a few open houses are scheduled on the speaking circuit, 5-6 a week. Hundreds of survey responses have been received. He has over 30 speaking engagements scheduled.
- Advisory group meeting last week went well. Nametags was a suggestion for the next one. Lee stated that format was great with challenges and solutions. Meeting was not rushed. Charles didn't think the demographics was representative of the city.
- Working on open house event in May for the east side of town. Senior Center or O'Conner Center are 2 possible locations. The open house will have different stations and short presentation.
- UT Facilities and Sustainability is partnering with us and providing funds for the UFMP. Three additional students were added to advisory. Would like to solicit input from staff, teachers, etc. Would like marketing ideas. Charles K. also suggested the "Office of Student Success" might be a good entity for marketing with UT effort. They are located in the Provost office and promote volunteering. Jessica suggested including students from the Baker Center to assist with policy viewpoint.

- Kasey is hoping for planting to be wrapped up this month but have had challenges with the rain. The city is making good progress with maintenance. Lacking are 2 or 3 more streets for downtown pruning and have started on MLK Drive. We are finding more streets with city trees to get inventoried.
- Kasey's trip to Brentwood went well.

### **Trees Knoxville Update with Allison Kelly (representing Dale)**

---

- Trees Knoxville had a table at Dogwood Arts February 10-12. Also had Saturday Spruce Up on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Planted 18 trees with 75 volunteers.
- Also had table at Keep Knoxville Beautiful Orchid Dinner.
- Canopies for Campuses: planted 10 trees at Karnes High School, 12 trees at Skyline Park and 28 trees on N. Peters.
- Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – planting 10 trees at Springhill Elementary and tree giveaway (120 trees)
- She is sending out her newsletter on March 6<sup>th</sup>, if anyone has anything to add
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Tennessee Tree Day
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> Trees Knoxville meeting
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – tree planting at Cedar Bluff Elementary
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – tree planting at Bluegrass Elementary
- Working on establishing watering committees

### **Ex-Officio Reports and Others**

---

- Kayla/Gordon - Kayla has schedule for articles. Introduce yourself in your article. Surveys went out to about a dozen neighborhood organizations.
- Sam Adams – UT Arbor Day on 3/3 at 11:00 am on Henson Hall front lawn – “Planting Future Champions”. They will be planting an American Yellowwood @ the student center. Parking passes are available – no parking available on campus.
- Diane Warwick – wrapped up Arbor Day application review. There are 45 approved cities in the state and 17 tree line utility cities. There are 7 tree campuses in the state and UT has been for their 6<sup>th</sup> year. Oak Ridge is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day on 3/3 and she will attend.
- Lee Rumble – It is presentation season. On 2/18, fruit tree pruning class. Dr. Lockwood, fruit/nut tree specialist is retiring but staying on for another year to assist. Recommended going to UThort.com for information on home fruit and nut trees. Spraying guide for apple trees is also there. Nurseries are full of fruit trees this season.

Do your research before you buy. There is a vascular streak disease among redbuds. (After the meeting, Lee emailed out the links for all of this information.) The nursery tour in Florida last year was good. This year, the tour will be in the McMinnville/Smithville area. Anyone is welcome to attend. The tour will be late October/early November.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am.

### Upcoming Events

---

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Arbor Day at UT at 11:00 am
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – Tree planting at Springhill Elementary and tree giveaway
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Tennessee Tree Day
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – Tree planting at Cedar Bluff Elementary
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – Tree planting at Bluegrass Elementary
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - Tree Board Meeting, Public Works Service Center, 8:30am
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – Open House, Community Room, 5:00-8:00 pm