

KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:42 am. Other board members present were Gordon Coker, Jessica Rodocker, Kayla Stuart, Sylvia McLaurin, Elaine Reed, Charles Kwit and Bob Graves

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Allison Kelly, Tim Hester, Sam Adams, Jessie Hillman, and Melanie Overall.

Action Items for May

- Bob motioned for April minutes to be approved, seconded by Charles. All in favor; none opposed.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey is wrapping up the speaking circuit this month.
- There are no new issues with the ordinance.
- Tree bank has been busy this month. Kasey is working with WBIR to remove one of their towers at Sharp's Ridge this summer. There have been 22 tree removals and they have put about \$60,000 in the tree bank. There are 3 trees under utility lines at Adair Park and 2 trees on Cumberland Avenue. There is a total of \$80,000 going into bank this month.
- TAEP grant is due in June and he is working with Trees Knoxville on it.
- Inflation Reduction Act grant – Trees Knoxville met yesterday and the city is working with them to apply. UT is going to apply as well with Champion Tree program. Available \$1.8 billion in grants. Jessie asked how the city would use the funds – disadvantaged neighborhoods, income levels, public spaces in the city and county, education, canopies for campuses, workforce development and volunteer forester program for Hispanic communities.
- Just wrapped up work at St Mary's Hospital and salvaged what they could. Working ahead of paving for appropriate clearance in planting.
- Work requests are picking up.
- Knox County Parks and Rec is starting to be aggressive with not mowing and with native plantings.

Trees Knoxville Update with Allison Kelly (representing Dale)

- Allison is busy with events. Recently: plant sale @ Lakeshore Park, Dogwood Spring Clean, and an initiative with tree giveaways at tire stores. Wrapping up at Mary Vestel Park the week of the 15th.
- Artist Black Forest is planting 100,000 trees across the country in memory of blacks who passed away due to COVID. They are partnering with Arbor Day Foundation and want local partners. Allison is meeting with them Friday for more information.
- Waterfest is on 5/9 at lams from 7:30-2:30. They still need volunteers.
- Open Streets is on 6/4 and more information is available on BikeWalk Knoxville site.
- Have tree tags ordered through TAEP.
- Waste Connections and TDS are interested in plantings.
- Leaflet goes out today, if anyone has anything to add.
- Sophie is training to be new program manager so Allison can focus more on Earthadelic responsibilities.

Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Kayla/Gordon -Elaine has the next article due. Kerstin is heading up the Trees Knoxville education committee, if anyone wants to sit in.
- Bob stated the third and final workshop has been completed. The virtual open house is tonight from 6:00-7:30, with a couple dozen registered. On 5/11, the open house is at Cansler YMCA from 4:00-7:00. There will be 12 stations set up and is the last opportunity for feedback before analysis.
- Tim said the recreation challenge grant deadline is the end of June. It is a match grant of \$3,000, with donations and volunteer time making up the match. The grant has been expanded from parks only to include any publicly accessed land.
- Charles – Ryan Sharp from Kansas State has been hired as outdoor recreation staff.
- Elaine - KUB has new contractor, Wright Tree Services, with 60 people who have been awarded most of the 1,000 miles. Orientation with them tomorrow. Garden clubs are wanting KUB to come speak about “right tree, right place”. Program is expanding. Jessica mentioned Debbie Sharp/community newsletter
- Kayla is graduating this spring!
- Jessie – Amy is coming back as executive director of Knoxville-Knox County Planning. Priority populations report is an interactive dashboard to help with resources. She will email it out after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 am.

Upcoming Events

- May 4th – Virtual Urban Trees Open House, 6:00-7:30pm
- May 5th – Waterfest at Ijams, 7:20am-2:30pm
- May 11th – Open House, Cansler YMCA, 4:00-7:00pm. Presentations at 5:00 and 6:00.
- June 4th – Open Streets