

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 3, 2023**

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The meeting was called to order by Bob Graves at 8:35 am. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Kayla Stuart, Jessica Rodocker and Jessie Hillman.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Lee Rumble and Melanie Overall.

**Action Items for August**

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- Quorum was not present to approve July minutes. Will approve at September meeting.

**City Update: Kasey Krouse**

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- Kasey reported tree permits are slow. There were 2 tree applications for the tree mitigation bank.
  - The City will be posting a Tree Service Technician position soon. This position will provide the opportunity to eventually move into arborist position. There are no minimum qualifications. Kasey would also like an intern 10 hours a week.
  - The American Elm tree has been pulled off the tree list.
  - Plantings are doing well except for some vandalism issues.
  - The tree installation bid is up, with August 8<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  - Maintenance – currently pruning in east Knoxville.
  - Getting ready to mark fall planting sites.

**Trees Knoxville Update: Sophie Carter**

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- Sophie reported a UT led tree walk is scheduled 8/24, 5:30-6:30 in Caswell area.
  - Newsletter goes out tomorrow, if anyone has anything to add.
  - Trees Knoxville was awarded the Challenge Grant.
  - Kasey and Sophie visited the Citizens Cemetery yesterday. Volunteer date for cleanup is 9/6, 8:00-11:00am.
  - Will have a table at Neighborhood Resource Fair, 8/12, 8:00am-noon.
  - Level 1 Volunteer Forester class registration is open on the website. Class dates are: 9/27, 10/4, 10/18, and 10/25. Graduation will be the last night of class.
  - Received \$40,000 TVA funds for tree plantings at schools, bus stops and microforest.

## **Education Update: Kayla Stuart and Gordon Coker**

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- Charles Batey has next article, but hasn't been in attendance for several months. Jessica will take it, due 8/25. Kasey will prepare article for September. Kayla will update schedule and send out. Kayla went over the guidelines for the article.
- There was discussion about replacing Kelsey, who moved out of state last month. Charles Hollander and Charles Batey will also need to be replaced. If you have any recommendations, send to Kasey and he will send to the mayor for approval.
- Kayla will not be at meeting next month.

## **Urban Forest Master Plan Update: Bob Graves**

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- Kasey stated the Steering and Advisory committees will meet 8/17 at 8:30am via Zoom.
- Trees Knoxville public announcement is scheduled for 9/13 @ 5:30pm in the Public Service Community Room.
- Kasey answered Jessica's question regarding implementation and policy, stating they are both in the plan.

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

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- Jessica mentioned Arbor Day. Everyone agreed 11/2 at 11:00am is good. Kasey will confirm with mayor. Suggestion was to hold it at Harriet Tubman Park, in conjunction with the Black Forest program. Kayla was asked to come represent Champion Tree, along with others who will be on the program. Kayla stated UT is now going to house the National Champion Tree program and is currently hiring for the national program manager. She will know in a few weeks if she got the position.
- Charles Batey came in and said he has recently moved to Jefferson County, so he will have to resign his position on the Tree Board.
- Lee – Summer Lunch 'n Learns have wrapped up. Had 25 in June, 20 in July and 16 in August. Grounds Management is scheduled for January 18-19, 2024. He is meeting with Boys/Girls Club today to train the trainers. Only had 1 to sign up. The Knox County Parks & Rec program – Bloom, sprayed Gibbs and John Tarleton. They will have a landing page on their website in 60 days. This is the non-mowing program. They will have nice signage in the areas with a QR code. They applied for wildflower seed planting grant to initiate in 6 parks. Beverly Place will have a serenity garden and walking path.
- Jessie – reported about their first 2<sup>nd</sup> level hillside protection plan. There is a 40 acre area on Central Avenue Pike that will exceed the disturbance area by more than is allowed. Working on how to inspect and enforce compliance. Jessica and Bob will

write a letter of recommendation from the Tree Board to the planning commission with the board's thoughts. Commission is also looking at how open spaces can be preserved (Advance Knox).

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.

## Upcoming Events

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- August 12<sup>th</sup> – Neighborhood Resources Fair
- August 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am – UFMP Steering and Advisory Committees Zoom meeting
- August 24<sup>th</sup> – Tree walk in Caswell area
- September 6<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer event at Citizens Cemetery, 8:00-11:00am
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm - Trees Knoxville public announcement, Public Service Community Room
- September 27, October 4, October 18, October 25 – Volunteer Forester Classes
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tentative date for Arbor Day at Harriet Tubman Park, in conjunction with Black Forest
- January 18-19, 2024 – Grounds Management