

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
FEBRUARY 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Jenny Arthur, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, Robert Graves, Nick Bridgeman, and Nick St. Sauveur.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering; and Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; and Lee Rumble, UT Ag Extension.

Visitors were Tracie Hellwinckel, Project Manager for Trees Knoxville; and Kelsey Jones, AmeriCorps.

Action Items for February

- Approve January minutes.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Finalizing quality control on the neighborhood canopy report. Will have the report ready for review soon.
- Grounds Management Short Course is February 26th – 27th. Lee Rumble will be teaching the course. There will be around 17 Public Service employees in attendance.
- The Callahan Drive soil amendment project is still ongoing. Kasey hopes to be able to replicate this project in more places in the future.
- Kasey gave a presentation on the pruning and removal work that Urban Forestry does, and how he would like to do this in the future. He has put in a funding request for an increase to \$75,000 to cover the cost of proposed contract services. Kasey wants to get the tree pruning and removals on a regular cyclic schedule. This funding will cover maintenance on trees in parks and other spaces. The increase in funding will provide money for contractors to step in and help with pruning and removals. Since this will be a capital spending request, the Board approved a motion to send a letter to the Mayor supporting this request. Dale and Tom will work on drafting the support letter.
- Kasey gave an update on the invasive plant species management plan.

Education Report & Arbor Day by Craig Walker

- A walk with the Mayor is proposed for one afternoon during the week of March 23rd. Plans will be finalized at the next meeting.
- The Neighborhood Conference is scheduled for March 28th. Craig will Co-ordinate volunteers.
- Waterfest is scheduled for May 4th from 9 am until 2 pm at Ijams Nature Center. We will present the same activities as last year.
- The Board has been invited to be involved with Earthfest. It will be held at the Depot this year.
- The committee talked about taking a field trip to the Zoo.
- The Chattanooga Tree Board has suggested that each board visit with the other in the near future.
- Tom reported that he spoke with Neil Letson, TN Urban Forestry Council president, about coming up to give a talk about what they are currently doing.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- 1-12-20 Presentation on arboretum process to West Knoxville Friends Meeting Group and discussion on potential for their property to be developed as an arboretum. 25 people in attendance.
- 1-13-20 Discussion with UT GIS class on a project to assess the urban forest canopy in Knox County.
- 1-17-20 Meeting with Knox County Climate Change group to plan meeting with Mayor Kincannon to discuss formation of climate change committee to work with city on implementation of next steps.
- 1-17-20 Drafted a grant application for Knox County School projects to submit to Volkswagen and The Conservation Fund to implement tree planting, education programs and restoration on several schools across the Knox County.

- 1-22-20 Meeting with Division of Forestry staff to develop proposal to fund Knox County & Knoxville canopy assessment.
- 1-29-20 Final class for advance Volunteer Forester training. 22 students graduated.
- 1-30-20 Submitted grant proposal to Mission Box to support training in tree care and management for the Knox County Hispanic community.
- 2-4-20 Presentation at Spring Hill Elementary School to group of 5th graders on trees and discuss their studies on climate change.
- 2-8-20 Victor Ashe Park tree planting 9 am to noon. 25 trees will be planted along the walking path.
- 2-15-20 A fruit and nut tree giveaway is scheduled.
- 2-22-20 Trees will be planted in the Lonsdale community.
- 3-7-20 Will be working with Dogwood Elementary to begin building their arboretum. Will be planting trees donated by Stanley's Greenhouse.

Ex-officio Reports

- Ben Nanny reported that there will be a weed wrangle at 5 selected sites on February 29th.
- Nick Bridgeman reported that the system upgrades have paid off in the form of fewer outages during recent storms.
- Andrew Caylor gave bike trail updates on several installations and improvements.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.