

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MARCH 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:34 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, Jenny Arthur, Anna Toon, Tracy polite-Johnson, and Andrew Caylor.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation; Diane Warwick, State Forestry Division; David Vandergriff, UT Ag Extension; and David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering.

Visitors present were Mariah Lowry, AmeriCorps temp with Urban Forestry, and Cady Greenslit, AmeriCorps temp with Parks and Recreation.

Action Items for March

- February minutes were reviewed and approved.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- 2018 Tree planting is ongoing. Mariah has been helping with inspections, and everything is looking good.
- Structural pruning of trees is completed.
- Kasey is still working on putting a tree master plan together by reaching out to other cities and groups that have already participated in this process.
- Kasey would like to form a committee to update the current tree species list.
- Island home Airport pruning is complete.
- Horticulture has been working on cleaning up the area around the Henley Street Connector, and putting new planting in.
- Kasey has two projects lined up for this years. One project will be the Willow Oaks in the 4x4 planters in front of the KUB substation on Henley Street. The focus will be on increasing the tree wells on those, and checking the soil for proper ph balance. The other project will focus the Pear trees near the Convention Center.
- There are few more tree planting scheduled for trees from the Missouri Gravel Bed. New planting will be put in this year.
- A new Volunteer Forestry class will begin on April 24th.
- Kasey reported that he and David have been working diligently on preparations for the upcoming ISA Conference. He shared with the group some of the professional events that will take place.

Education & KUB Report by Dale Madden

- Right Tree, Right Place presentation will be postponed. Nick will give us an update at the next meeting.
- The Neighborhood Conference booth application has been sent in. Nick will notify the group about volunteer opportunities as the date approaches.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- 2-13-19 - Taking Root Committee meeting to kick off 2019 funding raising. Selected several donors to work with this year. We have an anonymous donor again this year offering a \$15,000 to match donations. Target again \$30,000 for 2019.
- 2-13-19 - Meeting of the Volunteer foresters at Elkmont exchange. Topics covered were upcoming planting events, new project manager, April 24th Volunteer Forester training and future meetings topics. 9 people attended.
- 2-16-19 - TAEP grant tree planting on East Burwell Avenue. 50 trees planted and 29 volunteers.
- 2-19-19 Sequoyah Tree Walk. 9 people attended the walk in the rain and then 2 additional people joined at the pint night at Bearden Beer Market.
- 3-1-19 - UT Arbor Day celebration, tree planting and announcement of Campus USA. 48 students participated.
- 3-2-19 - Victor Ashe Park tree planting from 9 a.m. till noon. 10 trees were planted along running trail, and 19 around disc golf pads. There were 31 volunteers who signed in.
- 3-5-19 - South Knoxville Elementary campus tree planting of 6 trees. 4 trees came from the MO gravel bed. Volunteers consisted of 4 students and 5 adults.
- 3-9-19 - Gresham Middle School campus tree planting from 9 a.m. till noon. 10 trees were planted. Discussing with Gresham about applying for arboretum with TUFC.
- 3-16-19 - Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum planting of 40 native pollinator trees. We have 17 volunteers signed up.
- 3-23-19 - 250K tree giveaway – Trees Knoxville along with KBGA have been designated as the regional distributors for the tree give away on the 21st and the 22nd.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Concerning Arbor Day, Kasey says that Christenberry Elementary has shown interest in hosting. Craig Walker suggested that we reach out to Pond Gap Elementary. David Vandergriff recommended Bearden Elementary. Tom Welborn suggested that any of these schools would be a good candidate for Tree Campus plantings.
- David McGinley reported that Stormwater is still dealing with flooding issues.
- David Vandergriff reported that the Urban Forestry Council is now the administrator of the TAEP grants. There have been some changes in the application process. The payments will still go to the State, due to the fact that they will be sharing responsibility for the grants this year.
- Diane Warwick announced that the State Forestry Division is currently conducting interviews for a West TN Urban Forester. This position will be located in Memphis once again.
- Tracy opened up a dialog about the Tree Board branding, advertisement, and logo. She volunteered to take on the project moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.