

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MARCH 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:34 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Jenny Arthur, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, Robert Graves, Anna Toon, and Nick St. Sauveur.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Diane Warwick, State Forestry Division; Tim Hester, Parks & Recreation; and Lee Rumble, UT Ag Extension.

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

Action Items for March

- Approve February minutes.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey Krouse and Rachel Butzler visited the Chattanooga Urban Forestry production team. There was talk of sending a few of their board members to one of our meetings and we send a team to one of theirs.
- The purpose of the Chattanooga visit was to talk with their field crews and supervisors to see how they conduct business on a daily basis, as compared to our office. They run three crews as opposed to our two. Kasey would like to see us go to three crews in the future.
- Tree ISA Southern Chapter tree climbing competition is scheduled for May 16-18, 2020 in Knoxville. It will be held at Victor Ashe Park this year.
- Kasey is working with Cortese Tree Company, in conjunction with Saluting Branches, to care for and plant trees at veteran cemeteries. This event is scheduled for September of this year.
- The planting season is wrapping up. Kasey and Kelsey are doing some quality control work, but everything is looking good at this point. The contractor did a really good job, and paid close attention to detail.
- Gravel bed planting will be taking place soon.
- The AmeriCorps program will continue. Kasey is actively seeking out a new recruit for the upcoming year. He will also be getting a summer intern from UT.
- The invasive species plan is about to wrap up.
- The Volunteer Forestry program will begin April 29th and run through May 20th.
- Letters have been sent to the Mayor requesting a \$75,000 increase in funds for tree contract services.

Education Report & Arbor Day by Craig Walker

- We have volunteers for the Neighborhood Conference in March.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- A walk with the Mayor is postponed until late April or early May. It will be held at Morningside Park.
- 2-8-20 Victor Ashe Park tree planting 25 trees placed along walking trail and the parking lot. 25 volunteers. Installed water diapers to see how they work.
- 2-15-20 Native Fruit & Nut Tree Giveaway at Bloom Greenhouse Bearden Hill, 1400 trees disturbed; remaining trees given to local group working along First Creek and in Parkridge neighborhood.
- 2-22-20 Lonsdale tree planting. 50 trees were planted in the Lonsdale Neighborhood with funding from TAEP grant. 30+ volunteers and help from city employees.
- 2-26-20 meeting with David Brace to discuss Knoxville's involvement with canopy assessment and urban forest master plan.
- 2-29-20 Weed Wrangle at Ijams, 18 volunteers. Large amount of invasive vegetation removed in lower field at the KBGA.
- 3-6-20 UT Arbor Day Celebration Strong Hall 12:30 to 1:30

- 3-7-20 Tree Planting at Dogwood Elementary starting at 9; 4th and Gill Arbor Day tree walk and tree discussion starting at 11:30 am, and Tree Walk at Old Gray Cemetery with Jim Cortese starting at 3 pm.
- 4-29-20 Volunteer Forester Training starts 6 pm and will be held for 4 weeks. Check Trees Knoxville website for registration.
- Dale reminded us that UT's Arbor Day is tomorrow if anyone wishes to attend.

Ex-officio Reports

- Lee Rumble reported that the Grounds Management Short Course went well. Will be going through evaluations to see where they can improve on the conference material. The attendance was good. Would like to keep the event at the Conference Center, and bring in various keynote speakers moving forward.
- Diane Warwick visited the Gulf Shore Municipal Forestry Institute last week for a conference. Good trip. She will be attending Alcoa's Arbor Day ceremony tomorrow, and Chattanooga's on Saturday.
- Tim Hester reported that they've finalized the northwest connection greenway route. Tim has requested help in finding a 4 foot Red Oak stump for an art project in the Fourth & Gill Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.