

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Tom Welborn at 8:32 am. Other board members present were Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Robert Graves, Craig Walker, Charles Kwit, Nick Bridgeman, and Natalia Almonacid.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Tim Hester, David McGinley, and Diane Warwick.

Visitors this month Cara Sullivan, Charles Batey, and Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville.

Action Items for November

- Approve October minutes: Tom Welborn made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Robert Graves.
- Confirm last minute details for Arbor Day event.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Tree Protection Ordinance
 - The Tree Protection Ordinance is on the City-Council agenda on December 7th.
 - Chad Weth and Kasey Krouse received confirmation from 5 out of 9 council members in support of the Tree Ordinance and with little concerns at this time.
 - Kasey asked that at least 1 to 2 Tree Board members be present in support of the Ordinance.
 - Kasey will ask 1 to 2 Tree companies to also show up and support the ordinance.
- The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) Conference will be November 15-16 and the Arbor Day Partners Conference will be November 17-18.
 - Kasey will be presenting on the work force and other municipalities.
 - These conferences will be taking place in Louisville.
 - The conferences will have a virtual option for partners and Kasey asked Tree Board to inform him if they are interested.
- Kasey read an article from Arborists' News about climate change and the potential effects on tree planting.
 - Kasey is looking into diversifying the urban forest of Knoxville.
 - Kasey is working with Cara Sullivan (Americorp) to dive into diversifying the species and genus.
- Knoxville has an extremely diverse species of trees and Kasey will provide more information in December.
 - Kasey watched a webinar that went over some differences in planting and care of trees.
 - The basket is less important than the planting depth.

- Watering frequency is more about how often rather than how much.
- Last week, Urban Forestry had to remove 4 Bradford Pear trees at the intersection of Sutherland and Forest Hills Boulevard were blocking the light and causing a safety hazard by hanging over the road.
 - These Bradford Pears also presented a safety issue with the risk of the pears splitting.
 - Owner expressed interest in planting some other trees or bushes to replace the Bradford pears.
- Kasey is working on a pruning/removal contract bid for the City of Knoxville (COK).

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Tom Welborn sent out a report on the economic impact of trees to the tree board on October 11th.
- Trees Knoxville sent a letter on 10/12 to the City Council about Country Music Park. They also had a meeting in regards to the city's plan for Country Music Park for the best way to save as many trees as possible and plant trees where possible.
- On October 15th North Hills Neighborhood applied for Arboretum certification for North Hills from Arbor Net.
- On October 13th, Volunteer Forester classes started. The class ended November 3rd with 20 graduates.
- On October 21st, Kasey Krouse and Tom Welborn presented the Canopy Study to the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council with about 45 participants.
- On October 24th, Tom sent comments to the Knox County Commission about removing a billboard or removing the trees around the billboard in the Tate Strickland Park on Magnolia.
 - Tom explained the economic impact for those trees.
 - County voted to remove the billboard and keep the trees in the park.

Arbor Day Discussion

- Everything for lined up for Arbor Day.
 - The agenda was finalized yesterday.
 - Kasey passed the agenda on to the City Council.
 - The Mayor is scheduled to be present.
 - The plan is plant 10 trees at the locations Tim Hester and Kasey had picked out.
 - The Urban Forestry crews will deliver the trees, will dig the holes, and aid in the placing of the trees.
 - There will be one ceremonial planting with the elementary children and one with the Mayor & City Council.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Nick Bridgeman
 - KUB is still working in Holston Hills.
 - Started in Sequoyah Hills and finishing up in Ellistown area.
 - KUB has been cleaning up multiple tree outages.
- Diane Warwick
 - Diane has been working on a landscape scale restoration.
 - She reiterated that TUFC wants to bring the canopy study statewide or at least in the areas surrounding the largest cities.
- Tim Hester
 - Parks and Rec are still working on the Northwest connector from Western Ave to Victor Ashe Park.
 - They had to remove a strip of trees along the trail to cut into the landscape in order to meet ADA guidelines.
 - Kasey is working on a tree planting plan to replace the lost trees.
- Charles Batey
 - The TUFC arboretum inspection season is closing.
 - Charles sent a request to Knox Tree Care to be a sponsor for the Knoxville Tree Giveaway in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- Arbor Day Event on November 9th at 11 a.m. at West Hills Park.
- SMA Conference on November 15-16 and Arbor Day Partners Day Conference on November 17-18 in Louisville.
- Knoxville Tree Board Meeting December 2nd on Zoom at 8:30 a.m.
- Tree Protection Ordinance presentation to City Council on December 7th.