

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
OCTOBER 1, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:30 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Anna Toon, and Tracy Polite-Johnson.

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

Visiting this month is Rob Clark and Peter Ahrens with City Inspections, and Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville.

Action Items for October

- Approve September minutes.

Inspections Guest Speakers: Landscaping and City Codes by Peter Ahrens and Rob Clark

- Peter said that they are focusing on designers following the rules on the front end, and making sure that the plants have a good foundation to start with. Plant diversity is also important.
- Their focus is on the commercial building sites, and not residential.
- There are no significant changes for perimeter plantings, but there are new requirements for foundational plantings between the parking lot and the building façade.
- Planters are not only using the City's list, but are allowed to plant other approved trees and shrubs.
- One of the biggest limitations that they face is how to tie the codes into something that can be enforced. There are certain requirements that will be across the board, and others will be evaluated.
- Peter and Rob are currently working on the education side of the ordinance. After they have a certain number of installations to look at, they will check for any code violations, and hopefully be able to correct any problems on the front end.
- Preservation of existing trees has not changed.

Education Report by Craig Walker

- Craig reported that there was a good turnout for the first webinar, by Kasey, on the Tree Protection Ordinance. The next webinar, which is scheduled for October 19th 7:00-8:30 pm, will be given by Lee Rumble. Kasey will send the webinar link and Tracie Hellwinckel will schedule it through Eventbrite. Lee will publicize through the Master Gardener email list, and Craig will put it on the same outlets as last time. Kasey will find out who is the best person to contact in the city's communications shop, since there are new people. Tracie will develop a flyer once Lee sends the information on his presentation.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Planting list for 300 trees has been put in place. Proposed locations can be found on Tree Keeper.
- Kasey has picked out trees from Walker Nursery and Magness Nursey.
- Door hangers have been placed on residents doors.
- Met with developers at the Kerns Bakery site. Stormwater drains are still an issue that is being worked on.
- Some trees will be replaced at the Fort Dickerson parking lot site, and on Central Avenue. Overall tree mortality rate is still about 5% or less. Shingle Oaks were hardest hit.
- The Law Department is working through the tree bank clause that will be added to the Tree Protection Ordinance.
- Kasey is the incoming president for the ISA Southern Chapter.
- During the week of November 16th the Arbor Day Partners Conference will be held virtually. The cost will be \$45.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Tom reported that they had a Board meeting on September 9th and discussed the budget and goals for 2021. Also discussed was a committee to find new members.
- Trees Knoxville received a donation from TVA and the Knoxville Garden Club to support the Tree Canopy Assessment.
- Tom was also on a webinar to discuss how other counties are conducting events during the pandemic.
- Tom also mentioned how to get a tree sanctuary established. TUFC.com has more information.

Ex-officio Reports

- Diane Warwick reported that if you go to the Arbor Day Foundation website, they have a lot of ideas on how to celebrate.
 - The Department of Forestry has cut their budget. Diane is the only forester for the State.
 - Diane applied for the Tree Sanctuary program. She received a plaque made in Sparta from Tennessee clay.
 - Diane has been asked to participate in the Urban Economic Impact Study, which consist of gathering various types of information on 144 communities that they have selected.
 - Diane says that we can still be a Tree City USA without an Arbor Day celebration this year.
- Randall Whitehead said he's glad to have Peter and Rob on board to handle the landscaping.
 - Development across the river from the City County building has had a few tree issues that they're working out.
 - About 15 or so trees will be going in on Sevier Avenue that will cover several blocks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.