

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 3, 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, Andrew Caylor, Robert Graves, Nick Bridgeman, and Tracy Polite-Johnson.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Lee Rumble, UT Ag Extension; and David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering; and Diane Warwick, State Forestry Division.

Action Items for September

- Approve August minutes.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- 300 planting locations are being finalized. Some of these will include replacements. The proposed sites can be found on Tree Keeper.
- A new AmeriCorps member has joined Kasey's team. They will be working on mulching and root mitigation, and training prunes on previously planted trees.
- The tree climbing competition has been canceled due to logistic issues.
- There will be tree removals in several parks. Most removals are due to disease.
- Lakeshore Park will be undergoing improvements. Part of this project will involve tree removals.
- Princeton Elm trees are dying out due to elm yellow disease, and as a result, we will be cutting back on our use of this variety.

Education Report & Arbor Day by Craig Walker

- Kasey Krouse will be a guest of Tree Talk. This virtual event will be held on September 21st at 7pm. Lee Rumble will follow on October 19th.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Tom reported that Asheville is also going through an ordinance change, and they are working on developing a tree bank.
- Kasey reported that we are moving forward with drafting criteria for a tree mitigation bank.
- Trees Knoxville has received approval to receive 10k from City Council for canopy assessment.
- Tom will contact Knox County again for assessment funding.
- The assessment is moving along very rapidly. Kasey is working with them to get the GIS layers of the different geographies.
- Trees Pittsburg is doing a clinical analysis of the impact of trees on health. More info can be found on their website.
- Westwood Arboretum is moving along well. They are working towards getting their certification.
- Trees Knoxville will have a board meeting on September 9th at 2pm. Tom said that there are open slots for new members.

Ex-officio Reports

- Diane talked about the Green Interchange, which is focusing on planting trees along TDOT sites that are currently being mowed.
- Nick reported that KUB is still actively working on upgrades.

- Lee reported:
 - They have started a residential and community forest work group at UT. Many staff members are involved.
 - Lee has had multiple farm visits scheduled for September and October. He's starting to meet more commercial growers.
 - He is working on a lot of last-minute pesticide recertifications.
 - He will be helping on a practical arboriculture class at the Oak Ridge Arboretum.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.