

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
APRIL 7, 2016

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The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were David Vandergriff, Tom Welborn, Tracie Hellwinckel, Nick Bridgeman, Patrick Beasley, Beth MacDonald, Dale Madden, and Kenneth Townsend.

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Visiting with the Board this month was Kathleen Gibi, Public Affairs Specialist with the City of Knoxville, and Aaron Cline, Storm Water Engineering.

Action Items April	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update & Urban Canopy Committee	Kasey Krouse	04/07/16
Education Committee Report	Nick Bridgeman	04/07/16

**City Update/Committee Report** by Kasey Krouse

- Missouri Gravel Bed is looking great. Will have around 100 trees in the fall to plant. Keep Knoxville Beautiful, along with Horticulture Services crews were instrumental in getting the bed irrigated, and the plantings in the ground. Hopes to get volunteers for next year and install this same type of bed in a couple of communities.
- Stormwater Cycling System was installed at E. V. Davidson Recreation Center. The U. S. Forestry Service, University of Tennessee, and City of Knoxville partnered on this pilot project. This project will be monitored to see how much the roots are growing, and a weir will be put in to determine how much storm water the box is outputting, and to see how it changes over time.
- Pruning and removals are in full swing with the Urban Forestry crews. For 2016 there have been 95 removals, 1381 prunes, and 600 trees have been planted.
- Training prune on around 600 trees has wrapped up for this year.
- Landscaping in Marble Alley, the Island Home Apartments along the river walk, and the 700 block of Gay Street will begin soon.
- The ISA Southern Conference went well. There were 647 participants. The tree climbing portion had 35 participants.
- Kasey will be sending two employees to the Arbor Master Training in Asheville.

**Education Committee Report** by Nick Bridgeman

- Earth fest will be coming up on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the World's Fair Park. Volunteers were scheduled for this event. Kasey has seedlings for the group to bag and hand out.
- WaterFest will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Ijams. In lieu of the May meeting, members will participate in this event.

**Kathleen Gibi, Public Affairs Specialist.** Kathleen works for the City of Knoxville Communication Department. She helps facilitate press releases, website postings, and social media accounts. She has been asked to join us and share ideas on how we can get exposure for the Knoxville Tree Board. The following is a list of some of the topics and ideas that were suggested to the Board to consider.

- A regular speaking spot for Kasey or another member to discuss various tree/forestry related topics.
- Accessing the various newspapers to announce events or to write an article on events that we have sponsored or participated in.
- Utilize various websites and blogs.
- Utilize various social media. There should be no stagnant pages. She encourages a weekly post to begin with. This is a great avenue to find partners to be our advocates.
- Printed material including information cards and brochures. She suggested that we also consider various forms of communication in Spanish.
- Photographs of good and bad tree practices, interesting trees, places to see trees, etc.

It was a very informative session, and Kathleen offered to help in any way that she can. Sam Adams suggested that we complete the information card that we are currently working on, and later get this translated into another language.

### **Other Business**

David Vandergriff would like for the Board to consider sponsoring Jim Urban, who is a specialist in the area of urban arboriculture and soil, to be a speaker at a future conference or event in Knoxville.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.