

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
AUGUST 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:32 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Andrew Caylor, Tracie Hellwinckel, Anna Toon and Tracy Polite-Johnson.

Ex officio members present were Diane Warwick, State Forestry; Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; and Randall Whitehead, City Stormwater Engineering.

Special guest was Chad Weth, Public Service Director.

Action Items for August

- July minutes were reviewed and approved.

Public Service Overview by Chad Weth, Public Service Director

Chad gave a slide presentation with discussion, and a question and answer period followed.

- Public Service is the third largest department in the City.
- PSD is broken up into six General Service Areas, Solid Waste, Construction, Urban Forestry, Facilities Services, and Horticulture. The work performed by these groups includes everything from brush pick up, pothole patching, snow removal, cleaning homeless camps, tree removal, landscaping and working special events.
- Chad gave a breakdown on how and when scheduled services are performed.
- He discussed the important role of the 311 Call Center in taking citizen and interdepartmental request.
- Some of the future undertakings for Public Services will be:
 - A better way to recycle yard waste,
 - Reworking the zone maps to make them more efficient, especially in those areas that have had population growth spurts.
 - Possibly changing the brush shuttle system.
 - Opening a dialogue with tree services that cut trees and leave the brush behind.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey is heading to McMinnville at the end of August to pick out trees.
- He will be attending the ISA meeting in Columbus this week.
- Tree Keeper now has a new layer added. Historical, notable, and recognizable trees in Knoxville has been added. This will be available to the general public.

Strategic Plan: Goals by Dale Madden

Dale talked the group through some of the new initiatives that we want to begin immediately.

- Tom, Dale, and Kasey will begin with the first new initiative, which is to schedule a biannual meeting with the Mayor.
- Increase public awareness by developing a communications calendar.
- Update the Rack card. **Tracy Polite-Johnson** will take on this project.
- Another initiative is to improve effective organizational practices and member development and engagement. An online course through treeboardu.org, hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation, is a recommended place to begin training for current and future members.
- Hold Q & A sessions for new board members to provide historical perspective.

- There will be space on the monthly agenda for ex-officio members to give reports.
- Kasey recommended that action items need to be noted in the minutes to help ensure accountability by members.
- Ways of developing new partnerships were discussed. It will be up to the members to extend the invitation based upon members' interest. Kasey will invite Kathleen Gibi to the next meeting to discuss communication.
- It was also suggested that former members should be invited to speak with us.
- **Drew Caylor** will reach out to his mountain bike group to see if someone in this group would be interested in being a guest at a future meeting.
- **Jenny Arthur** will work on communications for the Board. She will begin working on brand awareness by donating t-shirts with our logo.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- On July 19th the Grants committee developed a draft application for the local Dow grant of \$25,000 with a focus on the Fort Sanders neighborhood. The grant proposal includes street tree plantings, a focused tree giveaway, and a neighborhood educational component on tree care and tree tags indicating the value and benefit of trees.
- An inspection on July 19th was conducted on trees which had been planted at Sequoyah Elementary School and the Ash trees which had been treated for emerald ash borer. Two Redbuds had been lost but the remaining trees planted and treated appeared to be in good shape. The planted trees were also watered.
- Tree Walk on July 23, 2018 sponsored by Trees Knoxville and conducted by Kasey Krouse was well attended with 30 participants. Thanks to TN Division of Forestry, Trees Knoxville was able to provide a tree identification booklet to the participants.
- Signed up with Knoxville Botanical Garden as a sponsor for TN Environmental Council 250K tree day scheduled for February 23, 2019.

Other Business

- Randal Whitehead, City Stormwater Engineer, reported that the Magnolia Streetscapes Projects "has started". The kick off for this major project will begin soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.