

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
DECEMBER 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order by David Vandergriff at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Craig Walker, Sam Adams, Tom Welborn, Tracie Hellwinckel, Brian Campbell, Beth MacDonald, Dale Madden, Kim Davis, and Syreeta Vaughn.

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering, Liz Albertson, Metropolitan Planning Committee, and Tom Simpson, State Forestry Division, Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry, and Anne Wallace, Policy and Redevelopment.

Visiting with the Tree Board was Betsy Pickle of South Knox Shopper News, Louise Gorenflo of Climate Knoxville, and Joann Logan of the University of Tennessee.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Action Items for December Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update	Kasey Krouse	12/11/14
Forestry Document Review	Kasey Krouse	12/11/14
Climate Knoxville- Tree Foundation	Kasey Krouse & Louise Gorenflo	12/11/14

**Shaded items will be removed after next meeting.*

The Tree Board welcomed our newest members, Tom Welborn and Tracie Hellwinckel.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

Kasey passed out the 2014 list of accomplishments for Urban Forestry. Our tree planting contractor, AvaLawn Inc., has installed one hundred trees so far. Kasey is already in the process of planning for the 2015-2016 tree planting season. He will visit nurseries in July, and make final selections for planting list in August. He encouraged everyone to get their request in no later than June. The tree planning, selection and planting process is a year round process, so it is imperative that he get the request in as early as possible.

Project Updates

- Dale Avenue - Nice streetscape project installed.
- Suttree Landing Park - Will be a waterfront park with greenway and walkway.
- Marble Alley - There will be a streetscape component to this one as well. This is a new development between Central and State Street, near the State Street Garage.
- Walnut Street Garage- This is going up quickly, and will add a streetscape component to this one.
- Lakeshore Park – Demolition is going well. No problems with how tree removal or preservation work is being done. The project contractor is doing a great job. KUB is preparing to do their utility project which will include underground utilities. This project will be going out for bid soon. Construction of recreation areas in the park will be taking place soon.
- Stump Grinding- We are using the tree inventory to guide the stump grinding process. Mark Wagner, Horticulture Manager, has decided to keep two men on this project all winter to remove stumps throughout the city. They are also resodding and reseeding as they go. Things are going well.

Review of Urban Forestry Plan

The group reviewed a draft of the updated document. Modifications look good. There was some discussion and input at this meeting. Kasey would like to get the Board's input and approval on this document at the next meeting, so it can be presented to the Mayor. The Board expressed their appreciation to the committee for all the hard work put into this document.

Climate Knoxville Overview by Louise Gorenflo

One of the Board's goals is to establish a tree foundation in Knoxville. Climate Knoxville approached Kasey about joining in this endeavor. Climate Knoxville is a collection of nonprofits, churches, and business that are all concerned about climate issues. Ms. Gorenflo gave an overview of what the foundations is involved with in the City. Climate Knoxville believes that they may be able to help facilitate the establishment of a tree foundation. A tree foundation could raise funds that could be matched by the City. Ms. Gorenflo expressed an interest in partnering with the Tree Board to hold a tree foundation exploratory meeting at Ijams on January 28, 2015. Kasey will give an opening presentation on the value of a tree foundation.

David Vandergriff reminded the board that the Dogwood Arts Home and Garden Show will be coming up in February, and we need volunteers to man an information booth.

David Vandergriff talked about his meeting with Regina of Pellissippi State concerning applying for a tree campus grant. There is a lot of interest, and they may apply at a future date.

Tom Simpson reported that the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council has printed a book called *Famous Trees of Tennessee*. This is a book filled with notable, champion, landmark, and heritage trees, plus other tree facts and information. Books can be ordered online at tufc.com for forty dollars.

David Vandergriff thanked the Board for their support during his two terms as tree board chair. He will take the position of vice-chair beginning in January, and Sam Adams will assume the role of chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.