

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
DECEMBER 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:40 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Dale Madden, Tracie Hellwinckel, Beth MacDonald, Nick Bridgeman, Curtis Casciano, Kenneth Townsend, and Craig Walker.

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

Guest present were Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe of the UT Urban Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Department, along with students Andrew Schneider, Samuel Payton, and Brandon Pouch. Also in attendance was Betsy Pickle of the South Knox News.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Action Items for December Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update	Kasey Krouse	12/03/15
Education Committee: Arbor Day	Nick Bridgeman	12/03/15
UTK Forestry Presentation	Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe & Students	12/03/15
January Planning Session	Sam Adams	12/03/15
Tree Foundation Meeting Report	Board Member	12/03/15

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Urban Forestry has a new larger, dryer holding yard at Lakeshore Park. Tree delivery will begin today, and wrap up in a few months.
- This will be the last year for the current contracts with the three nursery suppliers and contract planter. These contracts will be up for bid next year.
- Work is ongoing with a new log utilization program. Logs are currently being stored at the Lakeshore Park holding facility. Kasey is currently working out the details of a bid process for selling the logs.
- Kasey recently went to Colorado for the Arbor Day Partners Conference. An Urban Forestry census was conducted on the Urban Forestry program in various cities. Urban Forestry programs for cities the size of Knoxville have been around for about thirty-seven years. Fifty percent of the cities in communities across the United States have a systematic pruning program. Funds and resources for pruning, removal and planting are budgeted in most cities in the Southeast region. Also, where urban forestry is housed varies from city to city.
- Kasey's crew is beginning their seasonal pruning, and training prune on two year old trees.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

- Nick reported on the Arbor Day Program that was held at Lonsdale Elementary School in November. The program was successful and Nick thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.
- The Dogwood Arts Home and Garden Show will be held in February of this year, and he recommended that the Tree Board set up a booth again.

Other Business

- Sam reminded everyone that our retreat will be held on January 7th. This will follow our monthly meeting, and will be held in the Miller Educational Building at Ijams. Kasey and Sam will get together to work out the details and secure a facilitator for this session.
- Tom Welborn reported on the Tree Foundation meeting. Officers have been elected, and they have begun the process of discussing by-laws, and selecting various committees. Tom Welborn was selected Chair.

Presentation by Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe's UT Urban Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries students, Andrew Schneider, Samuel Payton, and Brandon Pouch.

The class presented a tree assessment and inventory conducted at the Holston River Park. The goals of this project were to gain some real world experience in inventory and risk assessment, and create recommendations for urban parks. The following items were discussed:

- The benefits of a well maintained and species diverse park, such as increasing the value of abutting properties, and improve the overall health and wellness of a community.
- Tree health issues that can occur due to improper planting, drought, invasive plants, pest and disease.
- Tree risk assessment, which has three stages, is the process of ranking and recording potential risk of trees.
- Methods and sampling techniques used at the study site.
- Invasive findings, and recommendations for removal, eradication (where possible) and regrowing a healthy urban forest.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.