

**Minutes
February 6, 2014
Knoxville Tree Board**

Meeting was called to order by David Vandergriff at 8:40 a.m. Board Members present were David Vandergriff, Sam Adams, Travis Davis, Liz Hannah, Rebekah Jane Montgomery, and Craig Walker.

Ex officio present were Kasey Krouse, City Urban Forester, Liz Albertson, MPC, and David McGinley, City Stormwater Engineering. Visiting with the Tree Board was Douglas Godbee, Forest Health Forester with the TDA Division of Forestry.

The following are action items for the March, 2014 Tree Board Meeting:

**Tree Board Action Items
2/6/14**

Action Items	Responsibility	Target Date
Review the Street Tree Master Plan.	All Board members	2/6/14
Assess status of Street Tree Master Plan recommendations and 5-year Improvement Plan. Review the Street Tree Master Plan with consideration of the Davey report and current status of the City tree inventory.	Urban Canopy Committee Planning & Policy Committee	3/6/14
Determine what is to be done with Street Tree Master Plan.	TBD	TBD
Develop goals for the education program and a system for determining which activities meet goals.	Education Committee / R.J. Montgomery to initiate	Checklist to be drafted by 2/6/14
Review checklist for evaluating outreach events and provide suggestions for any changes to Rebekah Jane.	All Board members	3/6/14
Evaluate prior Tree Board activities (listed below) in light of goals established for education program.	All Board members	3/6/14
Determine revision of Tree Board duties.	Kasey Krouse/ David Vandergriff	2/6/14

*Completed items are shaded in gray and will be removed after the next meeting.

2013 Tree Board Activities (to be discussed next meeting):

- Reception for Urban Forester
- City/State Arbor Day Celebration
- Notable Trees Exhibit
- Tree Tours (2)

- Dogwood Arts Home & Garden Show
- UT Gardens Blooms Days
- Earthfest (tree seedling give-a-way)
- Farmer's market booths
- Centennial Celebration / Conservation Expo
- AWRA Water Love Fest
- Monthly meetings
- Created educational display

Motion was made by Rebekah Montgomery to approve the January minutes, and Craig Walker seconded.

Kasey Krouse presented a copy of the Tree Canopy Study, and discussed the results and possible uses for this type of study for MPC, tree planting planning, etc. Several members weighed in with their approval, thoughts on the various ways the study could be used. This was not a city wide study, but did cover about 60 different areas. Kasey has mapped these areas out, and will make them available to the Board members.

Kasey Krouse presented language changes for the Tree Ordinance. The primary focus was on the Duties of the Tree Board. There was also discussion on general permits for public utilities, cable companies, etc, when trees on public property are involved. Clarity was given to the line item that pertains to trees under power lines. Kasey stated that this pertains only to trees on the City Right-of-Way.

The changes were approved by Sam Adams, and seconded by Liz Hannah. The Board voted unanimously to accept the changes.

David Vandergriff commented on the importance of the Tree Board language matching the language of the Tree Ordinance, and how important the Arbor Day Foundation language is in preserving the City's continued future support of the Arbor Day event.

Discussion: Street Tree Master Plan (STMP)

- Kasey Krouse will review the STMP with the Canopy Committee, Policy Committee, and State Forester Tom Simpson, to determine which components of the plan have been implemented, and if the plan is still applicable.
- This group will also look at the Davey Study in conjunction with the other action plans and policies, and determine what is relevant and applicable moving forward.
- It was suggested that the STMP could be a good educational tool for the general public, but it may be difficult for everyone to read and understand. Kasey and the group will review and determine language that will make the plan more public user friendly.

Sam Adams suggested that the findings of these combined committees would be a good springboard for the Board's annual report.

David Vandergriff commented that we need to better disseminate tree information to the public, and making the STMP document easier to read would go a long way in helping to grow and preserve the canopy cover, and would be beneficial in long term planning for aging trees.

Rebekah Montgomery presented a list of criteria for developing educational goals, determining which activities would better fit these goals, and important factors to consider when planning events. She asked for thoughts from the group, and will look at this at a later date.

Kasey Krouse suggested that when new members come on board, that they should be presented with a packet of Tree Board related material to help them become familiar with what the Board is about.

David Vandergriff reported this year's Arbor Day program will be held at the Fountain City Elementary School on April 25, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. Sam Adams will be in charge of the program. There will also be a poster contest again this year.

David also brought to our attention that March 7, 2014, is Tennessee Arbor Day. Brian Campbell will look in to the possibility of planting a tree for this occasion. Kasey Krouse will prepare a press release for both events.

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.