

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
FEBRUARY 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:33 a.m. Other board members present were David Vandergriff, Patrick Beasley, 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, Tom Simpson, State Forestry Division, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Action Items for February Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update & Urban Canopy Committee	Kasey Krouse	02/04/16
Education Committee Report	Nick Bridgeman	02/04/16

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Tree planting is going well. Still on track to get everything in the ground by March. Planted about 550 trees with over 35 varieties planted. Tree supply and installation contracts go out for bid this year.
- Urban Forestry and Horticulture offices will be temporarily moving to the Lakeshore facility.
- A Tree Service Technician was recently hired and he will be starting in about two weeks. The Urban Forestry group will be running two man crews for a while. Tree inventory and other works will continue.
- The new bucket truck is in and should be ready to go out soon.
- Kasey will be attending classes at the Municipal Forestry Institute in Virginia from February 22-26, 2016. This program is designed to help those in this field to sharpen their skills and improve overall job function.
- Southern ISA Conference will be held in Knoxville from March 19-27, 2016. A tree climbing competition will be held at Lakeshore Park, and he would like for Board members to be present.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

The most recent meeting focused on branding and image, and how it impacts the community's knowledge of the Tree Board and what we do. The following are some of the ideas that came out of this meeting.

- The Board will be moving forward with a tree brochure that highlights the top ten parks in the city. Beth passed out copies of the proposed brochure.
- The group will get together again and finalize the brochure, and take a look at our logo, and how we can incorporate it into brochures, education materials, and advertising.
- The group talked about a quick reference card with a scan able code that will allow people in the community to access the Tree Board website more quickly. This could also cut down on the amount of material that will be transported to outreach events.

- Arbor Day will remain in the fall, but the committee wants to move forward with a spring event related to Arbor Day. Projected date of this event will be spring of 2017.
- We will also be teaming up with Ijams and their WaterFest event. There was also discussion about participating in the Earth Day event as well. Future discussions for this committee will be centered on these two events and the role that we will play.
- The group also talked about a twitter page. Kathleen Gibi will attend the April meeting to discuss this and other advertising or public relation options that we can pursue.

Urban Canopy Committee: Kasey Krouse

- Kasey has been speaking with Gerald Green, who wants to discuss the tree ordinance as it pertains to parking lot landscaping and the zoning ordinance. Kasey would like to have an internal review from the Board to look at the tree ordinance as it stands, and get a bullet list of points to focus on. He wants to put together an adhoc committee of four to five members. A motion was passed to form this committee. Volunteers for this committee are Patrick Beasley, David Vandergriff, Dale Madden, Tom Welborn, and Kenny Townsend. Curtis Casciano, David McGinley, Beth MacDonald, and Tracie Hellwinckel will sit in on the discussions. The group will focus on short term goals at this time, and will focus on long term goals at a later date. A meeting will be schedule for the Engineering Conference room on Loraine Street.

Other Business

- Sam Adams asked Tom Simpson to talk about the Forestry Department's Urban Riparian Zone initiative that encourages riparian restoration projects. This is such an important new component for the Forestry Department's commitment to improving and growing urban canopy, that seedlings have been purchased to give away to communities, groups, businesses, and individuals that are willing to plant hardwood trees. More information can be found on the Tennessee State Forestry Division website.
- There was a lengthy discussion about the Magnolia Avenue Corridor plan and how it will impact the community. The Board voted to draft a letter of support for this plan and send it to the Mayor.
- Sam suggested that the State of the Urban Forestry report as things develop with the UCC, we will begin to develop that foundation for the dialog that we will to present to Council.
- The Neighborhood Conference, which will be in March, will not be on a large scale as last year. The agenda will be different. Kasey will take part by giving a presentation, and he has asked for one other member to be present to answer questions.
- Sam reported that UT will be hosting an Arbor Day tree planting, and luncheon this year. They will plant 800 seedlings on Second Creek. He will give us more information at a later date.
- Kasey encouraged the group to contact Debbie Sharp (dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) to get on the neighborhood mailing list to receive information about what's going in the various communities.

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