

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
FEBRUARY 1, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:33 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Andrew Caylor, Tom Welborn, Tracy Polite-Johnson, and Anna Toon.

Ex officio members present were Diane Warwick, State Forestry; Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation; Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; David McGinley, City Stormwater Engineering; and David Vandergriff, UT Ag Extension.

Visiting today was Louise Povlin, Alderman with the City of Farragut.

Action Items for February 2018

- January minutes were reviewed and approved.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Tree planting is almost finished, and the quality of planting is very good.
- The ad-hoc Canopy Committee will begin putting together a draft of the proposed revised planting plan they've been working on.
- The first draft of Recode Knoxville is about 60% complete and should be ready by February. There will be several tree and landscaping components to the recoding that may be of interest to the Board.
- Trees Knoxville has been awarded a TAEP grant which will benefit the City. Over 60 public trees will be added to the Lonsdale and Parkridge communities through this grant. These planting events will be held on February 12th. They are hoping for as many as twenty five volunteers at each location. Board members are encouraged to sign up to help.
- Urban Forestry's new bucket truck is in. It should be ready as soon as decals are added.
- Kasey has a new position to fill. It is for an Urban Forestry Service Worker, which will be posted soon.

Education Committee & KUB Report by Nick Bridgeman

- The Education Committee will meet following the meeting today to discuss upcoming events.
- Anna Toon will be the new Chair for Arbor Day.
- The Neighborhood Conference will be held Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel.
- Lakeshore, Holston Hills, and the Lonsdale areas are a few of the tree hazard impacted areas that KUB will be focusing on. KUB has four crews dedicated to working through the backlog.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Two new board members, Caesar Stair and David Lee, were added in to the organization in January.
- Trees Knoxville will be working closely with the Tree Board to make recommendations on the proposed tree ordinance changes.
- There will be a tree planting at the Odd Fellows Cemetery. The planting will be funded by the Mirani Foundation. Trees Knoxville has been working closely with the UT College of Architecture and Design on this project. The goal will be to install small flowering trees sometime in February or March.

- Trees Knox met with the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council concerning a small population of Chinese Parasol trees that have become established in the North Hills Community. Tom has spoken with Kasey about cutting down these trees, and the Council has agreed to treat the stumps with herbicide.
- There were twenty seven volunteers at the Sequoyah Elementary tree planting. Earthadelic assisted in offloading the trees.
- Trees Knox has also received support to treat the Ash trees at Sequoyah. Funding will come from Pattison Sign Company. Knox County Schools, with a funding match grant, will treat the last eighteen very large trees.
- New Hopewell Elementary, Gap Creek Elementary, Mount Olive Elementary, and Byington-Solway C.T.E.C. will be recipients of tree plantings, courtesy of a match grant from Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department. Planting will begin late February and early March.

Other Business

- Dale welcomed our new members to the board.
- Committee member slots were filled.
- The Urban Canopy Committee will meet to discuss getting City Council and the general public together for a presentation from an outside speaker, to discuss the benefits of trees and what the urban forestry program is really about.
- The Tree Board retreat will be led by Paul Ries. The time, date, and location has not yet been determined.
- Kasey and Nick discussed tree topping that is taking place in the City. This issue comes up from time to time. These practices are not approved by the City of Knoxville or KUB. Members have been asked to be aware of, and report any activity they see. David Vandergriff suggested that the Board consider becoming an advocate to push for regulation to stop these practices.
- The Board held a discussion concerning the possibility of separating the Arbor Day Committee from the Education Committee umbrella. Items discussed were a possible by-laws change if we pull it out; past history and practices of the event; member commitment to the success of this and other events. After much discussion, and input from all members, the Board agreed to table the discussion for now. The chair and members that volunteered for Arbor Day were asked to make this their primary focus during the year. This topic will be revisited after the 2018 Arbor Day event.

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