

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
JANUARY 5, 2017

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The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Kenneth Townsend, Tracie Hellwinckel, Dale Madden, Craig Walker, Anna Toon, and Tom Welborn.

Ex officio members present were David Vandergriff, UT Agriculture, David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Visitors included Nick St. Sauveur, Cortese Tree Specialist, and Shelby Abernathy, Public Service.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Future Action Items	Responsibility	Target Date
Urban Forestry Report State of Urban Forestry	Kasey Krouse	01/05/17
Education Report	Nick Bridgeman	01/05/17
Trees Knoxville Report	Tom Welborn	01/05/17
Welcome New Board Members	Sam Adams	01/05/17

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- Tree planting is going along well.
- UF will work to improve communication with property owners concerning planned plantings next year.
- The parking lot ordinance was sent back to MPC by the City Council.

**State of Urban Forestry Overview** by Kasey Krouse

- Will keep tree canopy report the same.
- Street/Park Tree Inventory as of December 2016- 65% of City Streets, and 90% of Public Spaces have been inventoried. To date the City has 23,544 sites of which 10,952 are street trees planting sites, and 12,592 are trees in public spaces, and 170 distinct species have been identified.
- A complete assessment needs to be conducted on public and private lands to determine urban forest structure, health, environmental effects and the benefits and values to communities.
- The City has not completed any extensive assessment to determine the age, structure, health, diversification, and make-up of the urban forest on both public and private property.
- During 2016, 591 trees were planted and 458 were removed.
- They city has done extensive planting within medians located along major corridors, including Callahan Drive, Middlebrook Pike, and many other locations.
- Education, and the fight against the emerald ash borer (EAB) will continue, along with the diversification of species of trees to be planted.

These are just a few of the items that the progress report addresses. The full report will soon be available on the Tree Board website. The Urban Canopy Committee will meet to discuss future goals, and recommendations for the City.

### **Education Committee Report** by Nick Bridgeman

- The Board will set up a booth at the Neighborhood Conference, and will participate in WaterFest at Ijams.
- Website Update: The committee is working on establishing a three tier website.
  - Page one will be revised to a general information section about the Tree Board.
  - Page two will be a section that introduces the public to the members of the Board. This page will have pictures of members and link to short bios. All members are asked to attend the February meeting to take pictures for the website.
  - Page three will contain the majority of the Tree Board information, which will include the following:
    - Tree Board information and helpful links to education materials and websites, and those that we partner with.
    - What the Board is currently working on and upcoming events.

Nick requested that the members look at the current website, and give him feedback on what they would like for it to look like. The committee will have another meeting to finalize their plan, and present to the Board at the February meeting.

### **Trees Knoxville Report** by Tom Welborn

- Tom thanked the Board members for their help with planting 54 trees at the Silver Leaf Subdivision.
- The organization is working on a newsletter which will be ready to send out soon.
- Trees that were left over from the giveaway at the Botanical Garden were donated to schools and other interested groups.
- A tree planting, sponsored by Knox County, will be held at the Holston River Park on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm till 4 pm. They will also be pulling invasives from the park as well.
- Trees Knoxville has developed a work plan that involves education outreach projects. Tom and Kasey are working on a plan to help train volunteers for future planting opportunities and maintenance. Another aspect of this plan is geared towards educating the general public about trees.
- They are currently working on a process for recognizing champion trees in Knox County.
- There will be a tree giveaway in support of the 100k Trees Day which will be held in February. More information on this event, and how to register can be found at [treesknoxville.org](http://treesknoxville.org).
- There will be another tree giveaway at the Botanical Gardens this year.
- The group will be working with the Knox County school system in what they call the Canopies for Campuses program. The group will be giving trees to various schools, and helping to plant them.

### **Committee Assignments** by Sam Adams

- Several committee positions were filled with members present. Sam will contact the absentee members to help fill the rest of the positions.
- Venue for future meetings of the Tree Board has been changed to the Public Works Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.04 a.m.