

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
JANUARY 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Tom Welborn at 8:31 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Tracie Hellwinckel, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Kenneth Townsend, and Anna Toon.

Ex officio members present were Diane Warwick, State Forestry; Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation; and David McGinley, City Stormwater Engineering.

Visiting today was Phoebe Anderson, an AmeriCorps volunteer, working as a Greenway Ranger with the Parks and Recreation Department. Also visiting was Brian Blackman and Joe Arcus.

Action Items for January 2018

- December minutes were reviewed and approved.
- **Bee City USA Presentation** by Brian Blackman Project Manager for the Knoxville Office of Sustainability, and AmeriCorps volunteer Joe Arcus. Brian discussed in detail what it takes to become a Bee City, and what the benefits are to our community, as outlined on their website <http://www.beecityusa.org>.
- One of the essential components of a Bee City is to adopt a resolution establishing a board that reviews pest management. In consideration of the Tree Board's work, Brian asked if the Board would be interested in becoming the oversight committee for pest management.
- As part of the education outreach, this committee or subcommittee will sit down and review what the city has done as it pertains to pest management; put together a presentation; and provide advice and/or recommendations on how to better manage and communicate pest control efforts. A liaison would be selected to give a presentation concerning pest control usage on a yearly basis. The selected individual, in conjunction with the Board, would be instrumental in reviewing and making future recommendations on pest management.
- Traci Hellwinckel recommendation that we become a Bee City USA, and become the Board to review the Bee City USA pest management and make recommendations each year. Jenny Arthur seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Tree Keeper has been upgraded and is now available for public use. This program uses google maps, so tree information is more current, and easier to navigate. The tree inventory information is readily available for anyone to view. For more information, please visit the Tree Keeper website at, <https://knoxvilletn.treekeepersoftware.com/>
- Planting season has begun. Contractors have until March to get all the trees planted.
- Cumberland Avenue looks great. All trees are in the ground, and Kasey plans to complete the final inspection soon.
- Kasey has a subcommittee set up to review the Master Tree Planting Plan. The first meeting is scheduled for January 10th at 10:00 at the Public Works Building.
- The Grounds Management short course, led by David Vandergriff and the UT Ag Extension, is coming up in January. Several Horticulture and Urban Forestry workers will be attending. Presentations will also be given by Kasey Krouse and Sam Adams.
- Also, scheduled in January is the yearly horticulture training on proper tree maintenance. Chainsaw safety classes will be coming up in February. Both classes will be taught by Kasey.
- The bucket truck will be up and running soon. This will be the second bucket truck for the Urban Forestry group. This addition will allow them to operate with two fully equipped crews.

- The yearly Urban Forestry report will be presented to the Mayor. Some of the items to be presented in the 2017 report will include these numbers:
 - 900 trees have been removed, and over 600 young tree prunes were performed.
 - 500 tree risk assessments have been performed.
 - Urban Forestry responded to over 300 tree related emergencies.
 - Over 2,000,000 pounds of brush was picked up, with a portion being taken to the Knoxville Zoo to utilize for animal food.
 - Over 1,200 trees were planted.
 - The amount of tree watering was reduced due to an abundance of rain over the year.
 - Over 5,000 trees were inventoried, bringing the total of public trees inventoried to almost 25,000.
 - Downtown Improvement Project is completed. Over 1,000 trees were pruned.
 - The Volunteer Forestry Program classes were a big success.
 - Over 100 Ash trees have been removed from along City right-of-way.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

- The Neighborhood Conference will be held on March 24, 2018 at the Marriott Hotel. A space has been reserved for the Board. Nick requested volunteers.
- Earthfest will be held April 28, 2018 at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum.
- The next event will be Waterfest at Ijams Nature Center. Nick will contact Ben Nanny for the event date.
- Nick would like to have an Education meeting on January 18th or sometime before the next Board meeting. He would like to get a head start on Arbor Day.
- KUB is currently working on circuit maintenance in some areas, and tree issues. Also, be aware of water leaks that will spring up at the thaw.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville, along with 20 volunteers, planted 13 trees at Fulton High School. Earthadelic provided support for getting the trees off the truck. Funds from the Patterson Sign Co. and Three Rivers Market donations were used to purchase the trees.
- Tom met with Jim Cortese and Joyce Feld at Sequoyah Elementary School to discuss ash pest treatment for 18 trees.
- The group returned to Fulton High School to complete mulching of trees.
- Trees Knoxville plans to initially choose about 30 trees to add to the Champion Tree list project for publication on their website.
- Trees Knoxville and Scenic Knoxville met to discuss provisions for ordinance enforcers.
- Plantings are proposed for Gresham, Sequoyah, and Whittle Springs schools.
- The 250k Tree Day event(s) will be held at Beardsley Farms, and at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum.
- The group returned to Fulton High School to complete mulching of trees.
- Trees Knox plans to initially choose about 30 trees to add to the Champion Tree list project.
- Trees Knox and Scenic Knoxville met to discuss provisions for ordinance enforcers.
- Plantings are proposed for Gresham, Sequoyah, and Whittle Springs elementary school

Other Business

- Tim Hester reported that the new section of Third Creek Greenway, near Fulton High, is almost complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.