

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
JULY 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by David Vandergriff at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Patrick Beasley, Beth MacDonald, and Craig Walker.

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry, Tom Simpson, State Forestry, and Liz Albertson, MPC.

Visiting with the Tree Board this month was Babajide Ogunyombo, an undergrad student from ETSU, and Nick St. Sauveur with Cortese Tree Service.

Action Items	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update	Kasey Krouse	07/07/16
Education Committee Report	Nick Bridgeman	07/07/16
MPC Parking Lot Ordinance	Kasey Krouse	07/07/16

City Update/Committee Report by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey has applied for a \$20,000 TAEP Grant. The primary focus for planting will be the areas that are lacking adequate tree coverage. Members were asked for their input on planting sites.
- Vendors for the 2016 tree purchases will be Walker Nursery, Magness Nursery, Hidden Valley, and Select Trees from Athens, GA. Select Trees will supply 3” caliper trees.
- Tree installation contract is wrapping. Five to six contractor attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Kasey explained future planting guidelines.
- Project Updates:
 - Suttree Park landscaping will be finished around August.
 - Island Home Apartments is still moving forward, and progress has been made with tree selection.
 - Marble Alley is progressing with the addition of some landscaping.
- Tree inventory has been put on KGIS. Now, you can go to KGIS and access information about a particular tree, or address concerns about a tree. KGIS has installed a tool allowing one to send email concerns about a tree, but the tool actually sends emails to the tree, which in turn gets fed to Kasey who generates a response. Great informational resource for Urban Forestry. This tool can be accessed via the KGIS website or the City of Knoxville website.
- Kasey also explained the process for assesses and addresses dangerous or high risk trees on private property.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

- In Nick’s absence, Kasey informed us of the two issues that Nick wants to address. One item is reviewing and updating the Tree Board website. Nick will address this at next month’s meeting.
- The other item is to put together an Arbor Day committee. Patrick Beasley agreed to chair the committee again. Beth MacDonald, Tom Welborn, Ben Nanny, Nick Bridgeman, and Kasey Krouse will round out the committee. The group is planning to meet by August to discuss the program.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville is moving ahead with a couple of things, one item being a website which will hopefully generate public awareness of the organization and its mission.
- Silver Leaf Subdivision project is moving ahead. Kasey and several more have met with Habitat to discuss plans for planting. The neighborhood has agreed to maintain the watering of the trees. This is the first planting project for Trees Knoxville. They hope to have future meetings with neighborhoods to discuss tree concerns that they may have. Moving forward, there will be volunteer opportunities for the Tree Board to assist with community plantings.
- Partners from TVA and KUB have been added. A meeting is scheduled for this month at Ijams.
- The Alliance for Community Trees has offered an opportunity to receive two different planting grants worth \$5,000 each. These grants are for specific types of planting.

Other Business

David Vandergriff and others expressed their concerns about the public's lack of information about professional tree services. Many non-professionals are giving professional tree services a bad name with the bad tree work they perform. The main concern is how to get more people guided to the professions.

MPC Parking Lot Ordinance by Kasey Krouse

Board members were sent a copy of the ordinance and were asked to give their input on the landscaping components of the ordinance. Below is a partial list of some of the concerns.

- Remove all landscaping components of this ordinance, and place it in a separate landscaping ordinance. The purpose for this would be to place all plant and planting specifications in one place for ease of navigation for both review purposes and developers.
- The ordinance should stress the importance of landscaping, not merely as aesthetics, but the environmental and sustainability purposes should also be addressed.
- It would be helpful to have a professional that is familiar with landscaping and design at the table.
- Enforcement of the ordinance, with regard to tree topping, installing the wrong types of trees, location of installation, among other things, is a serious concern. Consideration and discussion was given to the possibility of the City adding a landscape enforcer.
- Perimeter buffers should be simplified for both review purposes and developers understanding.
- More consistency is needed concerning the mature sizes of trees, and the minimum caliper of new plantings, and planting locations within the parking lots.

After the discussion, thoughts were entertained to send a letter from the Tree Board to MPC supporting the parking components, and voicing our concern about the landscaping components. Liz Albertson encouraged members to attend the MPC agenda meeting later in July. A motion was made and seconded for the Policy Committee to meet and discuss an appropriate course of action.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.