

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
JULY 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:33 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Kenneth Townsend, and Tracie Hellwinckel.

Ex officio members present were Diane Warwick, State Forestry; Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Randall Whitehead, City Stormwater Engineering; David Vandergriff, UT Ag Extension; Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation.

Action Items for July

- June minutes were reviewed and approved.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- The 2018 TAEP grant should add about \$20,000 to the tree planting budget this year. The focus this year will be more on street tree plantings and other small projects.
- All tree request should be in before the end of August.
- UF crews have been busy during the month of June with around 150 storm related tree calls.
- Kasey opened a dialog with the Board about how the 311 system plays an important role in receiving and tracking tree calls.

Tree Board Strategic Plan by Dale Madden & Tom Welborn: Copies of the new initiative for the Tree Board were passed out to be reviewed and possibly move toward adopting this plan of action.

The following items were discussed:

- Setting up a framework for implementation if this initiative is adopted.
- Possibly creating a calendar, according to sequence and priority, to keep the Board on track.
- Viewing the document as a “living document” which will give the Board more flexibility in making changes and adjustments as needed.
- Adopting the document.

Jenny Arthur made a motion to adopt, and Tom Welborn second the motion. The Board unanimously agreed to adopt the plan.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Plans for the Norris Commons Arboretum were finalized.
- Met with the French Broad land owners to discuss repairing and planting trees in riparian areas.
- Trees Knoxville worked with the UT Herbarium in their invasive vegetation removal efforts along 2nd Creek.
- Met with the Water Quality Forum on June 20th to discuss local water quality projects and issues.
- Trees Knoxville hosted a volunteer recognition party for the Volunteer Forestry Program participants.
- Trees Knoxville received notification that they will receive a TAEP Grant.
- An application has been turned in for the community tree giveaway award.
- Met with Knoxville Botanical Gardens to discuss their tree inventory. Trees Knoxville, UT and Cortese Tree Service will aid KBG with their tree survey, and get reauthorized as an arboretum.
- Trees Knoxville will begin a funding request for a new part time position.
- On July 11th Trees Knoxville met with the new Volunteer Forestry Group.
- There are plans to submit Kasey’s name to receive the government employee award from the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council.

- A restoration project is planned for the Meadow Creek Soccer Field. Volunteers will be asked to help plant native shrubs and trees as part of Knox County Stormwater Restoration Project.

Other Business

- Diane Warwick reported that there were \$146,000 in funds available from the Urban Forestry TAEP grant for community plantings, but there was \$189,000 in request. Money was reallocated from an underused fund to help with community planting, so that all the request were able to be filled with only a few modifications to some request.
- The Arbor Day Foundation is looking into the possibility of establishing a health care system planting program. A lot of good research is coming out in favor of the healing benefits of green spaces and trees.
- Tom reminded us of the “tree walk” that Kasey will be leading on Monday, July 23rd @ 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.