

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
JUNE 4, 2015

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The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were David Vandergriff, Craig Walker, Nick Bridgeman, Tom Welborn, Dale Madden, Patrick Beasley, Syreeta Vaughn, and Tracie Hellwinckel.

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, Liz Albertson, Metropolitan Planning Commission, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Visiting with the Tree Board was Betsy Pickle of South Knox Shopper News, and sitting in for ex-officio member David McGinley was Aaron Kline with Stormwater Engineering.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Action Items for June Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update	Kasey Krouse	06/04/15
Education Committee Updates/Reports	Nick Bridgeman	06/04/15

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- The Nature Conservancy has donated several signs and plaques with QR codes that can be scanned to learn information about trees and their benefits. This technology will be installed in Victor Ashe Park and Morningside Park about 10 to 20 feet off the walking path. Kasey has created a preliminary course which is currently being reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Department. Once the review process is completed, this information will be forwarded to the Conservancy to have a map created.
- Kasey will be applying for the tree planting portion of the TAEP Grant again this year. He will once again be looking at areas around the City that need reforestation. He is also taking request for neighborhood tree plantings, as he will begin looking at trees for the next planting season.
- The Cumberland Avenue project is still in the works, and there will be a street tree component added to that area. Once the project is completed, the care of the trees will be in the hands of the City.
- Marble Alley and Fort Dickerson Park upgrades are still in the works.
- EAB treatments by Cortese Tree Specialist will continue as needed. Kasey has found additional trees that have shown some sign of die back, and added them to the treatment list. Trees added to the list are typically located between the sidewalk and the road, and must be a suitable, or notable, or recognizable tree.
- Ash tree removal part of the program. There is a heavy infestation of Emerald Ash Borer this year. Trees in the wooded area along Neubert Springs, and in the Victor Ashe Park, between the park and the school, have been heavily hit. The Urban Forestry crew will soon begin tree removals in these areas.
- Kasey's new intern will begin this month. His primary responsibility will be to continue with the tree inventory.
- Ginkgo tree removal on Main Street will take place in August before UTK begins classes.
- ISA Southern Chapter will meet here in 2016, and the ISA International will meet in Knoxville in 2019. Each conference will draw several hundred people. Kasey is encouraging Tree Board members to get involved.

- Tree growth regulators appear to be working well at minimizing the need to water newly planted trees. He will be better able to judge the true benefits of this system next year.

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

Nick reported that the Blooms Day event went well. He spoke with quite a few people on Friday. Saturday and Sunday were slow, but a good event. The Education Committee will meet to discuss Arbor Day and other business after the meeting.

### **Other Business**

Sam and Kasey met with Louise Gorenflo to talk about the ongoing efforts of the Tree Foundation. The three of them will be working on a presentation for August or September, to be presented to potentially interested organization that may wish to provide members to the foundation.

Tom Welborn reported that his neighborhood group has been working with the Design Center to develop a long term master plan for the North Hills Neighborhood. They will focus on planting trees in the boulevards.

David Vandergriff introduced us to the Spittle Bug that has been covering Leyland Cypress trees. He has had numerous reports of this white spittle mass all over trees. It's a pest, but relatively harmless.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.