

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
JUNE 7, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:33 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Nick Bridgeman, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Andrew Caylor, and Tracy Polite-Johnson.

Ex officio members present were Diane Warwick, State Forestry; Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; David McGinley, City Stormwater Engineering; David Vandergriff, UT Ag Extension; Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation.

Action Items for June

- May minutes were reviewed and approved.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey discussed how to present the comments from the Board concerning Recode Knoxville. The Board decided to wait until the MPC presentation, and possibly add more comments.
- Eighteen students were graduated from the latest Volunteer Forestry class.
- Kasey discussed the Trees for Knoxville Zoo project. The Urban Forestry group has been participating in the program for a few months. The favorite trees for the elephants happens to be Bradford Pears. Types and condition of brush was discussed.
- Damage to the 4th & Gill neighborhood from recent storms has kept Kasey's crews group busy.
- Kasey is looking to plant about 300 trees with the TAEP grant. He will be focusing on five neighborhoods this planting season. The State will review grants and send out confirmation letters at the end of this month.

Education Committee & KUB by Nick Bridgeman

- There was good Tree Board representation at the Waterfest event. Lots of kids and lots of fun. Next year it's hoped that we can get signage to explain the event, and maybe add another event.
- Costume improvements and updating the website were also mentioned.
- KUB is wrapping up its work in Holston Hills. They are currently working in Colonial Village, and will then move on to the North Hills area next.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Trees at Sequoyah Elementary have been treated.
- A Project manager job description has been approved, and they will now begin to look for funding.
- Trees Knox worked with other environmental groups to formulate comments on Recode Knoxville.
- Completed work at Beaumont Elementary included straightening, watering, and staking some trees. There were three dead tree removals.
- Bearden High School was inspected for their arboretum application.
- Arboretum certification review was completed at Norris Commons Park with David Vandergriff. Thirty-three trees were labeled correctly, proper maintenance (including mulching) was discussed, as well as identifying additional trees for the City to plant.
- Trees Knox assisted the South Knoxville Neighborhood group in clearing around trees near James White Parkway.
- They will set up an information table on June 9th at Seven Islands State Birding Park for a meeting with the French Broad River Landowners.

Other Business

- The Board discussed an action plan for working on the new initiatives established for the Board at the workshop. It was agreed that brand awareness is at the top of the list of initiatives to work on first.
- David Vandergriff and Kasey reminded us of next years' ISA Conference, and how this would be a great opportunity for the Tree Board to play an important role and host some family friendly events.

Recode Knoxville Discussion: MPC Director Gerald Green joined us for a very relaxed and insightful meeting concerning the landscape component of Recode Knoxville. He said the Recode effort came about as a need to update the old zoning code, as it was not keeping pace with development and the vision for Knoxville. The old zoning ordinance was at least 60 years old and had no uniform landscaping provisions. MPC obtained a consultant to help with the recoding process. Information was gathered, and from there the first draft was put on the website for public input.

Below are some of the items discussed with the Board.

- He clarified the point that this is not a tree ordinance, it is simply a landscape component for development purposes.
- We reviewed the purpose and intent of landscaping component.
- Questions concerning policing and enforcement of proposed ordinance.
- Discussed were planting standards for buffer zones, stream buffers, landscaping of sites and threshold parking areas.
- Hillsides are another policy issue that may need to be identified and regulated.
- More detail on tree maintenance and preservation should be put into tree ordinance.
- For clarity sake, make sure to reference the tree ordinance when it pertains to trees, and landscaping components that are already addressed in the tree ordinance.
- Educating landscaping companies of changes and requirements.
- The Board was encouraged to give comments to elected officials as an advocate.

Mr. Green informed us that the second draft, including a large zoning map, will be added to the website. In August more public input will be solicited, and will be ready for review in September. The final goal is to have a new ordinance adopted by the end of the year. Visit Recodeknoxville.com for more information and all future updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.