

**Minutes
March 6, 2014
Knoxville Tree Board**

Meeting was called to order by David Vandergriff at 8:35 a.m. Board Members present were David Vandergriff, Sam Adams, Beth MacDonald, Dale Madden, Patrick Beasley, Craig Walker, and Brian Campbell.

Ex officio present were Kasey Krouse, City Urban Forester, Liz Albertson, MPC, David McGinley, City Stormwater Engineering and Anne Wallace, Policy & Redevelopment. Visiting with the Tree Board was Tom Welborn, and Maxmillian Spielmann.

Motion was made by Brian Campbell to approve the February minutes, and Sam Adams seconded.

The following are action items for the April Tree Board Meeting:

Tree Board Action Items

Action Items	Responsibility	Target Date
Assess status of Street Tree Master Plan recommendations and 5-year Improvement Plan. Review the Street Tree Master Plan with consideration of the Davey report and current status of the City tree inventory.	Urban Canopy Committee Planning & Policy Committee	Will be done in 3 phases: 3/6/14
Discuss various aspects of the Davey plan, as it pertains to our Urban Forestry Program.	Kasey Krouse	4/3/14

*Completed items are shaded in gray and will be removed after the next meeting.

Kasey Krouse reported that Cortese Tree Specialist has been hired to treating Ash trees around the area to prevent the spread of emerald ash borer. Areas targeted for this treatment are Morningside Park, West Hills, Neyland Greenway, and Chilhowee Park. This is an effort to preserve the declining number of Ash trees for the future. Anyone who knows of an Ash tree population that may need attention, please let Kasey know, and we will see if treatment can be worked in. Urban Forestry will make an effort to budget \$1,500 a year for treatment. Sam Adams explained the type of treatment that will be used, and the intended outcome. Sam Adams and David Vandergriff comment on areas in west Knoxville, where there is a large population of Ash trees that are seeing an increase in insect activity. Most notable are areas near water.

Kasey reported that the proposed language change to the Tree Ordinance that primarily focuses on the Duties of the Tree Board, will go before council in March.

Kasey presented a door hanger that is used by the Urban Forestry crew to give homeowners notification as to when a tree is going to be pruned, planted, or removed from in front of or around their property. The door hangers included phone numbers and other pertinent City information to homeowners.

David Vandergriff pointed out that this is yet another recommendation that was in the Davey plan.

Kasey reported that the 2013 -2014 tree planting has just wrapped up, with the planting of six hundred trees. Kasey is taking request for the 2014 -2015 tree planting program, and would like to

have those request in by July. He and Liz Albertson are looking at the 2002 Street Tree Master Plan, Canopy Assessment, and the Davey Plan, in an attempt to prioritize future planting.

Meeting on the 2002 Tree Master Plan: Kasey and several board members met to discuss different items on plan. They focused on Chapter 3, and the different strategies that the plan had coming out. The discussion was on the relevance of the items, and looking forward, to determine if they are still relevant, if they need to be deleted, or amended. The idea is to meet again and formulate another document, based on the different strategies, to determine which direction will be more applicable to our needs as a Tree Board. The goal is to formulate a simple document to present to MPC and the City Council that would redefine or restate the goals and objectives of the Urban Forestry Program as we move forward. Kasey will review Davey plan by April, Tree Conservation plan by May, and hopefully have a document to move on to City Council by June

David Vandergriff would like the Board to give consideration to one of the key recommendation in the STMP that was never implemented. This is to establish a tree foundation. This is a way for the community to have a non-profit group, and raise funds and resources to expand upon the City's budget ability to plant trees. .

Tree Planting Contract: All Trees are planted. AvaLawn did a good job. The only concern was the death of some species specific trees that came from the nursery, namely Elm and Linden species. Some had to be staked due to small root ball. Overall, the trees were of great quality, Kasey will be negotiating to extend the contract for next year.

David Vandergriff commented that the professional community has recognized that he tree planting has stepped up.

Market Square Project has begun. Kasey passed around a drawing of the plan. The purpose is to have a landscape bed on both sides and have a small lawn area on the other side. The plan includes a permeable, not a concrete path. The idea is to allow access to the area, without needing to re-sod several times a year. The installation of landscape beds is to try to preserve the tree roots, by preventing roots from being disrupted.

700 Block of Main: The focus of this project is the line of Ginko trees by the church. The roots of the trees have caused the sidewalk to be uplifted about six inches, and as a result, the sidewalks will be re-formed. Not only was this a very tight spot for planting trees, but the trees have also been severely pruned by KUB, due to overhead power line interference. The planned construction work has caused us to consider what could be done concerning the Ginko trees, due to the fact that they are a continual growth tree, and are not suitable for growth under power lines. The plan is to preserve the trees on the far east side that are not under lines. Remove the trees on the west side and replace them with smaller caliper low growth trees. Kasey has been in conversation with KUB concerning planting trees in the median, just north of the adjacent area to mitigate what we're losing under the power lines. Trees will remain on the south side, and trees will be planted in median. Concerns were for sidewalk, pedestrians, utilities, and folks that want tree canopy. He will be getting with Engineering concerning this proposal.

Kasey reminded everyone that there is a neighborhood meeting this week. David Vandergriff, Craig Walker, and Sam Adams will represent the Tree Board.

Education Report from Brian Campbell and Dale Madden: Brian and Dale attended the TN Urban Forestry Council training meeting in Cookeville. Tree boards from all over the state were represented. The speaker was Patrick Collins from Chairman of the TN Urban Forestry Council. Some of the topics discussed were types of trees, benefits of trees, soil, tree infrastructure, and storm water management. There were group meetings to share ideas and methods. Dale talked about the "Rain Garden Concept" that was adopted in Boston that make use of rainfall and storm water runoff that was also a money saving project for the city. Also, he gathered from talking with

other groups, that there seems to be more sensitivity and awareness to trees, and this awareness seems to be increasingly finding its way into public policy in many areas.

Brian reported that tree boards all around are dealing with the same issues as were are, which include property, utility companies, city ordinances, and other things. One thing that has become increasingly popular with other tree boards is changing Arbor Day to the fall. Fall is the more appropriate time to plant trees.

After a brief discussion concerning an Arbor Day celebration in the fall, a motion was made by Brian Campbell, and seconded by Sam Adams, to change the Arbor Day program to the first Friday in November. This will begin in the 2015 year.

Beth MacDonald wanted to know a good time to honor the Urban Forestry Program. It was agreed to honor them at the Arbor Day Celebration this year. Things needed for the celebration was also discussed.

Tom Welborn, formerly with the Environmental Protection Agency, visited with us. He introduced himself, and talked about his job with the agency. Tom recently moved back to Knoxville, and is looking forward to becoming involved with the Knoxville community, and has expressed interest the Tree Board as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.