

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MARCH 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were David Vandergriff, Tom Welborn, Tracie Hellwinckel, Nick Bridgeman, and Curtis Casciano.

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering, Tom Simpson, State Forestry Division, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Visiting with the Board this month was Gerald Green with the Knoxville Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Action Items March	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update & Urban Canopy Committee	Kasey Krouse	03/03/16
Education Committee Report	Nick Bridgeman	03/03/16

City Update/Committee Report by Kasey Krouse

- All trees are in the ground, and awaiting final inspection.
- A new Tree Service Technician has been added to the Urban Forestry staff. There are now two tree maintenance crews, and another employee will be added soon.
- Kasey recently attended training at the Municipal Forestry Institute in Virginia. The focus was how to build your forestry program around people, utilizing available people resources, planning and scheduling programs.
- Kasey is currently working with KGIS to get the tree inventory up and available to the public for interactive use. They are currently working on a mobile version, and a link that can be used to send a message to a tree, or sent comments concerning trees.
- Kathleen Gibi, Department of Communications, will attend the April meeting to talk with the Board about public relations via utilizing various social mediums.
- Kasey will be partnering with the University of TN on an urban runoff cycling center. The pilot site will be the E. V. Davidson. University students will be monitoring the water intake and output.
- Keep Knoxville Beautiful will be planting about a hundred Crepe Myrtle trees at two interchanges on I-275. Kasey has requested that Board members get involved.
- Horticulture now has a dedicated crew member that works with Knox County work crews to clean up some the Smart-Fix areas, and other pocket around town.
- Urban Forestry and Horticulture groups will be moving to offices at Lakeshore Park.
- The members of the Urban Canopy adhoc committee have been working to improve Article II, Tree Protection Ordinance, which pertains to development. Using comments and concerns from committee members, Kasey reached out to Gerald Green of the MPC for his input. The committee members are also reaching out to other cities across Tennessee to see how their ordinance is set up. Gathering information from various sources will help the committee develop guidelines for recommendations on how a potential landscape ordinance should go through in the future.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

- Nick brought a copy of the new information card that the committee is working on. The purpose of the card is to get the Tree Board name and brand out to the public.
- There were suggestions on how to improve the tree brochure. There were recommendations to increase the number of parks in certain areas that are not well represented on the currently proposed brochure.
- Nick talked to us about the interactive activity that the committee has planned for Water Fest which will be held at Ijams Nature Center on May 5, 2016.

MPC: Gerald Green

Mr. Green discussed the Landscape Ordinance as it pertains to Parking lots. The current landscape ordinance is comprehensive as it applies to all new development and redevelopment. However, landscape provisions are currently buried in the parking ordinance, and some of our zoning districts and some of our commercial or planned office district's landscape requirements are sometimes contradictory. The current ordinance, as it relates to these business areas can be difficult to administer and to understand. The MPC is currently working to bring more clarity and conformity in the ordinance. Among other things, they are working to clarify the type of landscaping that will be required, increasing the size of buffers between business parking lots, between commercial and residential areas, and define the amount of parking per square foot. Gerald recommended that the Board reach out to communities, Commissioners, Council members, and other groups that may have shared interest in what the Board is trying to do.

Other Business

- Tom Simpson reported that the State Forestry Division will present Knoxville with a 25th year plaque at the November Arbor Day Celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.