

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
MAY 7, 2015

---

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

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering, and Anne Wallace, Policy & Redevelopment, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Action Items for May Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update	Kasey Krouse	05/07/15
Events Reports/Upcoming Events	Nick Bridgeman	05/07/15

*\*Shaded items will be removed after next meeting.*

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey has been approached by the Nature Conservancy to install custom tree signs, like the ones installed at Centennial Park in Nashville, that have QR codes and web addresses so visitors can use their smart phones to view videos about trees, their benefits and how to take care of them. Kasey will be meeting with them to discuss possibly installing this technology in Victor Ashe Park and Morningside Park. He will have more on this next month.
- The request for a second bucket truck for the Urban Forestry crew was not approved.
- Kasey and Sam will give the Urban Forestry update to City Council at one of the June meetings.
- Urban Forestry crews are beginning to put out Gator Bags again this year. They are also treating the trees with Biochar. This product is designed to help the soil around the roots of the trees retain water. He is also still monitoring the trees that were treated with a plant growth regulator called Shortstop. He will have a better idea of how effective the treatment is in another year.
- Urban Forestry will be taking several trees out of the median on Hall of Fame, heading towards Broadway, and some in Fountain City. The goal is to install a better quality of tree in those areas.
- A line of Ginkgo trees will be removed in the 700 block of Main Street, and replaced with trees that will be more suitable for this particular type of foot traffic area. New tree pads will be installed that will create an environment that allows for root growth underneath the sidewalk. A few trees on the far east side of the tree path will be preserved.
- TAEP Grant and Community Forestry Grants will be released in a few days. He asked the Board to consider what display materials this money could be used for. Many ideas were discussed, and will be further discussed at the Education meeting next month.

**Education Committee Report** by Nick Bridgeman

Nick reported that Earthfest went well. Quite a bit of material was passed out, and a number of folks stopped by to ask questions and get information. He reminded everyone of the UT Garden Blooms Day event, and finalized the volunteer list. Also discussed were the various farmers' market locations where the Board might want to consider setting up a booth, and the 2015 Arbor Day event. Both of which will be discussed at the Education Committee meeting in June.

## **Other Business**

Anne Wallace reported that the Cumberland Avenue project is underway. There will be a very intensive tree planting along Cumberland Avenue in both sidewalk space and the median. There will be planter guards installed around the planting areas to protect vegetation and help direct pedestrians to safe crossing at the appropriate locations. Anyone interested can check out the project website, [cumberlandconnect.com](http://cumberlandconnect.com). There is also a free app for Android and Apple phones that will help people navigate around the project, and will push construction updates to your phone. This app will also be available for other phones later in the month.

Patrick Beasley asked if the Wood Lottery project, like the one sponsored by the Chattanooga Urban Forestry Department, was still being considered. Kasey assured the group that the interest is still there and he will be compiling a list of area wood artisans and others that may be interested in this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.