

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MAY 4, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Dale Madden, Curtis Casciano, Craig Walker, Traci Hellwinckel, Tom Welborn, and Tracy Polite-Johnson.

Ex officio members present were David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering, David Vandergriff, UT Ag Extension, Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, Nick St. Sauveur, Cortese Tree Specialist, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Action Items	Responsibility	Target Date
Urban Forestry Report	Kasey Krouse	05/04/17
Education Report KUB Vegetation Management Presentation	Nick Bridgeman	05/04/17
Trees Knoxville Report	Tom Welborn	05/04//17

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Last year the Urban Forestry crew had a record number of work orders, and so far, this year has exceeded last year by about 25%. Recovering from the previous storm is still underway, but progress has been hindered due to a very rainy season.
- Kasey has been working on a proposal to add pruning to landscape agreements with future contractors. By adding pruning to the contracts, this will allow his crews more time for storm damage, and other removals and maintenance work.
- Downtown improvement project is still going well. About 25% of the work has been completed.
- Emerald Ash Borer continues to be a problem with trees in the City. More trees, in more areas, are being identified on a regular basis. BLS (Bacterial Leaf Scorch) and various pest also pose damaging and life threatening problems with many species of trees in the area.
- Ownership of trees is still an ongoing concern for citizens in reference to fallen and damaged trees on City right of ways, undeveloped streets, and other areas. Kasey is developing a door hanger for residents that will help clarify most or all of these issues.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

- All supplies are in for one of the WaterFest events. Tree cookies are still needed for another. A volunteer work schedule was agreed to.
- The committee is working on updating the display for events. We currently need more Tree Owner guides and rulers.
- Sequoyah Elementary has been recommended to host the 2017 Arbor Day celebration scheduled for November 3rd.

KUB Vegetation Management Presentation: Nick Bridgeman

Nick shared KUB's procedure for customer notification and satisfaction concerning tree pruning and removal. Public safety is one of the main reasons for this program. KUB has a responsibility to keep their tree infrastructure clear of debris, thereby insuring a safer environment for customers.

- Some of the reasons for, and benefits to pruning.
 - Pruning is done to promote tree health. Most threats to the lines are actually a threat to the tree health, such as, overhanging limbs. Removing damaged limbs in the short run, can save the entire tree in the long run.
 - To maintain consistent standards and exceptions in every neighborhood, in order to ensure customer affordability.
 - Public safety is another reason, as trees and poles, do conduct electricity. Clearing the trees away from overhead electric lines helps to reduce the probability of outages due to electrical surges from limbs into lines.
- Customer notifications of hazardous trees on private property, which require KUB to conduct work on property is given via door hangers, knocking on doors, phone calls, etc. There is always at the very least, two types of notification given to customers.
- Contractors mark trees with work specific paint color.
- KUB hires subcontractors to assist with pruning and removals. Many of these companies have non-English speaking employees. KUB requires that a bilingual supervisor be on duty with each group of tree workers.
- Nick also discussed KUB's utility pruning and removal standards, and why the trees are cut the way they are.
- KUB prunes around 1100 miles of trees annually.

For more information about KUB's vegetation management, please visit www.kub.org.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Tom and Kasey met with members of the Forest Heights community. This proved to be an excellent educational outreach meeting.
- Participation in the Volunteer Forester Training program has been excellent. There are currently about 30 students attending the training.
- The first school tree planting for Trees Knoxville is scheduled to take place at Christenberry Elementary on May 11th. Kasey and Tom have requested assistance from as many Board members as possible to plant 14 trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.