

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
OCTOBER 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order by David Vandergriff at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Sam Adams, Patrick Beasley, and Beth MacDonald.

Ex officio members present were Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center, David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering, Liz Albertson, Metropolitan Planning Committee, and Kasey Krouse, Urban Forester.

Visiting with the Tree Board was Tom Welborn of North Hills Community, Betsy Pickle of South Knox Shopper News, Jason Mann, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and Martin Wood, The Nature Conservancy.

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting will be postponed until the November meeting, pending one correction, and the presence of enough voting members to form a quorum.

Action Items for October Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
Revisions to By-laws vote	David Vandergriff	10/02/14
City Update and Urban Forestry Plan	Kasey Krouse	10/02/14
Green Earth Blue Skies Festival report	Beth MacDonald	10/02/14

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

By-Law Revisions by David Vandergriff

The first order of business was discussing the proposed by-law changes. Kasey has presented this to the City's law department. There is, however, a questions concerning the wording of what constitutes a quorum under Article V, which states "Quorum for board meetings shall be a simple majority of voting members plus one". The law department's recommendation is that the wording be changed to "Quorum for board meetings shall be a simple majority of voting members." This wording will be revisited next month.

David also brought it to the Board's attention that it is also time to consider nominations to fill the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. He reminded us that his term as chairman will end this year. He thanked the Board for their support and cooperation over the past couple of years.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

Kasey is still working on the Forestry Plan. He will meet with the committee to finish work.

Urban Forestry is moving into pruning season. He will begin doing some young tree pruning training. This work will focus on structural pruning of trees planted in the past two years. He will also be requesting a new bucket truck for the forestry crew, which will increase their ability to perform much needed proactive work. Numbers from the first of the year include about 312 removals, 1300 prunings, and 600 trees planted during 2013. Overall tree loss of new plantings from last year was less than 5%. Those trees will be replaced this year. Kasey attributes better watering practices, and improved tree stock for the low mortality rate.

One of the future goals of the Urban Forestry group will be to team up with some of the local residential tree services, and with KUB to put together training for aerial bucket truck rescue. He would like to get with these companies to see what type of training programs they have in place, and work with them to

put together training for his crew. David pointed out that a few years back, Cortese Tree Company was instrumental in getting the Electrical Hazard Awareness Program training for crews that work around power lines. Kasey will work with Sam Adams on a similar training program.

Kasey is also looking at a tree watering ring that he believes to be more efficient than the gator bags. The watering ring will make watering easier; does a better job of saturating the trees; and is more durable than the gator bags.

Festival Report

Beth reported that she and Dale Madden attended the Green Earth Blue Skies Festival in Farragut, on September 28th. Beth, along with the help of her daughter, made information a poster, and had markers for the children to make drawings. She and Dale talked to a large number of people about trees, and the tree board.

Presentation by Martin Wood from The Nature Conservancy

Martin discussed the proposed firewood policies that will restrict the use of untreated firewood in the Great Smoky Mountains Nation Park. The National park Service is proposing that the public use USDA or state certified heat-treated firewood, or using downed wood collected inside the park for campfires, starting in March of 2015. The purpose is to help protect the forest from non-native insects and diseases.

To learn more about The Nature Conservancy and their work, please visit their website at www.Nature.Org. For more information about firewood, please visit www.donmovefirewood.org, and to learn more about pest threatening the Smoky Mountains, visit www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/firewood-alert.htm.

Other Business: Kasey Krouse

Kasey has created a QR Code that he will share with everyone to put on our flyers or displays. Clicking on this image will allow users to go straight to the Urban Forestry website. There was also discussion about talking to Anne Wallace about the possibility of having this code put on the new way finding signs in the Knoxville area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.