

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
OCTOBER 4, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:33 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Jenny Arthur, Tracy Polite-Johnson, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, and Andrew Caylor.

Ex officio members present were Diane Warwick, State Forestry; Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; David McGinley, City Stormwater Engineering; and Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation.

Special guest was Kathleen Gibi, COK Communications.

Action Items for October

- September minutes were reviewed and approved.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey is working on finalizing plans to have Dr. Paul Ries give a presentation in early December about the importance of trees. The title of the presentation will be “Rethink Trees”. The board has been asked for their input in planning this event.
- Fort Dickerson parking project has begun. About 120 trees are scheduled to be planted there.
- Kasey filled the Urban Forestry Worker position. The person coming on board will have a Fish and Wildlife degree.
- Kasey is working with the UT Ag department on the Dutch elm disease that wiped out a large population of Elm trees. They are experimented with planting Dutch Elm disease resistant cultivars, and have had some success, however, it is believed that a phytoplasma disease called Elms Yellow may be affecting some of these cultivars. The Elms Yellow disease is different from the Dutch elm disease, in that, death is imminent, but certain practices should be applied when planting the American elm. Elm trees are one of the most popular trees used in landscaping.
- Tree work request are still increasing, and request are being prioritized by Urban Forestry.
- The tree inventory link now has a “champion tree list” added. Tom Welborn has developed a form for submitting trees to Trees Knoxville to see if they qualify to be call a “champion” tree.
- Kasey and Tim Hester spoke briefly about the problem in the Island Home Airport easement. There is a need to prune about 60 to 80 trees for clearance purposes. However, many of these trees are Sycamores, and have been pruned so extensively that they are now dying. Kasey and Tim proposed removing about 10 trees and replacing them with something more sustainable. A public meeting will be held in mid-October to discuss the issue with the neighborhood.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Tom talked about several tree grant applications that Trees Knox has submitted.
- The group is planning a tree giveaway on December 1st.
- A tree walk is scheduled at UTK on October 16th at 5:30 pm.
- A meeting was held with the Volunteer Foresters to discuss the Taking Root campaign. The next meeting for this group will be held at the Elkmont Exchange on October 10th at 6:00 pm.
- There will be a plaque dedication and a tree planting at the Odd Fellows Cemetery on October 21st at 2:00 pm.

Arbor Day Report

Dale reminded everyone that the posters will be judged at the November meeting, and the Arbor Day Celebration will be held at West View Elementary on November 2nd @ 1:00 pm. Everything for the program is in place, and 6 trees will be planted around the playground and the amphitheater.

Presentation by Kathleen Gibi, COK Communications

Kathleen met with the Board to discuss ways in which the Communications Department could be a valuable resource for promoting and advertising Tree Board events. She discussed some of the underutilized media outlets that are available, and the benefits of using them.

- Using the help of a new graphic designer to create a unique logo for the Board.
- Consider using Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and the Mayor's City blog. Each outlet targets a specific demographic of users. The Mayor's blog could be a potential spot for guest commentary from the Board.
- Feature a social media quiz using topics such as volcanic mulching, tree topping, etc.
- Use a tree board hashtag for archival purposes.
- Feature the champion trees on social media.

Other Business

- On an education related note, Dale requested that Kasey present various topics for discussion every quarter at the meeting. Several members requested specific topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.