

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Sam Adams at 8:30 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Tom Welborn, Dale Madden, and Tracie Hellwinkel.

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

Visiting with the Tree Board was Nick St. Sauveur with Cortese Tree Specialist.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved.

Action Items for September Meeting	Responsibility	Target Date
City Update	Kasey Krouse	09/03/15
Education Committee Updates/Reports	Nick Bridgeman	09/03/15
Strategic Plan	Sam Adams	09/03/15
Open Streets Knoxville	Nick Bridgeman & Kasey Krouse	09/03/15

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey sent member considerations to the Mayor. He received a total of nine nominees.
- Sheryl Ely is the new Deputy Director of Public Services. Kasey will extend an invitation for her to visit with the Board.
- Main Street Installation is going well. This project will be finished next week.
- Urban Forestry received confirmation that we have once again been awarded the TAEP Grant award totaling \$20,000.
- The Hank Rappe' Playground at Lakeshore Park will formally open on September 11th.
- Several people have approached Kasey about the possibility of doing a controlled or prescribed burn to hopefully eliminate some of the invasive vegetation that is growing on properties that have been donated to the City. Kasey met with several groups that included representatives from the State of Tennessee, City Fire Department, City Engineering Department, and Knox County Air Quality. Questions and concerns from the various groups have been given to the City Law Department to examine. This will be an ongoing process, as there are many issues to work out. Tom Welborn offered to look into the EPA exemptions with prescribed burns.
- Kasey announced that the Urban Forestry Division has, since January 1, 2015, performed 268 tree removals and 1476 tree prunes. His crew is currently in the proactive stage of forestry management. He is also looking to increase his crew and equipment in time.
- Kasey said that the tree shopping went very well. He got a good selection for the upcoming planting season. Will continue to work with Walker, Magness, and Hidden Valley nurseries.

Education Committee Report by Nick Bridgeman

- Nick announced that the Arbor Day Celebration will take place on November 6, 2015 at the Lonsdale Elementary School. They are currently working on completing the agenda. The poster contest and rules have been sent to the school. There will also be a tree planting ceremony. Dale Madden will supply the tree, and Tom Simpson will be making the State Forestry presentation.
- The Open Streets event will be held in the Old City on October 25th. Board members discussed participating in this event, possibly setting up a rolling tree planting of finding grates to fill. Nick and Sam will review the area (s) in question. Sam made a motion to review the area and then determine the possibility of participation. The Board unanimously agreed.

Strategic Plan

- Sam suggested that we table the review of the current plan, and schedule a planning session later in the year or after the first of the year. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the session in January at Ijams. Sam will seek out a facilitator. Ben will try to schedule this in the Miller Education building.

Other Business

- There will be a Tree Foundation meeting at Ijams on September 9, 2016.
- The October meeting will be rescheduled for October 8th, due to the fact that many of our members will be away at the TN Urban Forestry Council Conference.
- The Arbor Day program will stand as the November meeting.
- Sharon Philippe, with the UT Forestry Department, will bring a group of students to the December meeting to make a presentation.
- Knoxville Botanical Gardens has hired Jim Richards as the new director. Kasey will extend an invitation to Mr. Richards to visit one of our meetings.
- Sam and Kasey will give a presentation at the Tree Foundation meeting on September 9th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.