

KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:30 am. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Sylvia McLaurin, Brian O'Connor, Melissa Hinten, Gordon Coker, Charlotte Rodina, Kayla Stuart, Bob Graves, and Jessica Rodocker.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Aoife Whitaker, Ben Nanny, Tim Hester, Jesse Hillman and Brandie Jackson.

Action Items for December

- Motion to approve December minutes made by Dan Steinhoff. All in favor, none opposed.
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City Update: Kasey Krouse

- Planting season off to slow start. Contractor has covid; hopefully resume in the next couple weeks
 - Working on a proposal with Ijams for invasive species grant through state IRA funds. Possibly getting contract dollars for invasive species management with contractors in some of the parks.
 - Talking to Urban Wood Economy regarding a feasibility study. Consult, evaluate, and advise on wood waste. Is there a market here and how to make it feasible?
 - City of Knoxville Urban Forestry Website Presentation -
 - Tree Species list by Sm/Med/Lg: May need to be updated by Tree Board
 - Permit Processes for tree planting in public areas, tree pruning, or tree removal. KUB has general permit
 - Uses for permit: Educate and inform public of planting guidelines
 - Tree Mitigation Bank: Application and fees
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Trees Knoxville Update: Sophie Carter

- Planting dates 9-11am every Saturday until March 2nd. 2/10 is replaced by 2/9 with UTK student day of service. *FEB 17TH 9am-12pm partnering with Keep Knoxville Beautiful for Tape Grant Plantings.
 - Nourish Kids Event Jan 20th 10am-2pm @ Winter Farmers Market – Need Volunteers, discussed kids' activity options
 - Possible Tree Walk in conjunction with Volunteer Forester (starting Jan 31st 6-8pm)
 - Executive Director Interviews on Jan 16th (Updated date: January 30th due to inclement weather)
 - Website is updated – Thank you, Karen!
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Education Update: Kayla Stuart

- Reviewed Tree Board Affiliate Article requirements and due dates.
 - Discussed what additional community outlets could be used to increase circulation and create an archive for past articles
 - Explored possibility of partnership with Knox County School system to provide educational materials and/or experiences with students
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Urban Forest Master Plan Update: Bob Graves

- UFMP was sent to advisory committee mid December for review. It's now in final process.
 - Kasey Krouse - Meeting set for January 5th
 - Plan next steps – Master Plan release → Public review → Finalization → Launch Party
 - Discussed pros/cons and required steps for getting UFMP adopted.
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Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Jessica Rodocker - Jessica met with Jessie, Kasey, Pat Phillips, and Brian O'Connor regarding both the Tree Protection Ordinance and Landscaping Ordinance. Working towards incorporating Tree Protection Ordinance into zoning code. Goal of creating a "one stop reference" for developers. Discussed steps needed with ordinances to become a Tree City USA. Next meeting scheduled for week of Jan 7th
- Group discussion on what influence the Missing Middle parking requirements letter composed after last month's meeting had. Parking minimums were reduced and parking variance process now available in draft that will go to city council.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 am.

Upcoming Events

- Planting dates 9-11am every Saturday until March 2nd. 2/10 is replaced by 2/9 with UTK student day of service. *FEB 17TH 9am-12pm
- Nourish Kids Event Jan 20th 10am-2pm @ Winter Farmers Market
- Volunteer Forester starting Jan 31st 6-8pm
- Urban Forestry Master Plan Meeting January 5th