

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 6, 2022**

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The meeting was called to order by Daniel Steinhoff at 8:31 am. Other board members present were Gordon Coker, Charles Batey, Kelsey Jones, Jessica Rodocker, Kayla Stuart, Charles Kwit, Natalia Almonacid, Nick Bridgeman, and Charles Holland Jr.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, and Ben Nanny.

Visitors this week were Cara Sullivan and Tracie Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville.

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**Action Items for January**

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- Approve December minutes: Daniel Steinhoff made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Gordon Coker.
- Establish a new chair for the Education Committee.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

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- The City is in the middle of the tree planting cycle, actively working on planting around 500 trees this year.
  - Contractors will be working to up to March 1<sup>st</sup> with planting.
  - These trees are already inventoried.
  - Urban Forestry planting/tree care is funded through grants and a budget of \$50,000 with some of those funds being dedicated to specific projects.
  - Often by the end of August, all the trees have been decided on and bought for planting for the next year.
- The next step for the City is to establish a 20-year Master Plan with the Tree Board.
- The second reading of the Tree Protection Ordinance went well and was approved by the City-Council.
  - Registration link for tree companies has not launched yet but Kasey will be reaching out with the registration soon.

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**Trees Knoxville Update with Tracie Hellwinckel**

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- On January 15<sup>th</sup> Trees Knoxville will be hosting a planting at Mary Vestal Park with the Challenge Grant and will be planting 20 trees.
- Volunteer Forester 2 classes will begin on January 12<sup>th</sup> and will continue on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-9 pm.
- There will be a Tree Walk on January 22<sup>nd</sup> working on winter identification of trees.
- Tracie is working with Ben to establish a location for Weed Wrangle.

- Trees Knoxville will also be hosting a tree planting in the Fort on February 26<sup>th</sup> with about 40 trees.

### **Education Update**

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- The Education Committee needs a chair—Charles Batey volunteered to chair, Jessica Rodocker volunteered to help with Arbor Day, and Lee Rumble offered to continue to help with providing education presentations.
  - The Education Committee has been generally trying to schedule training/webinars at least once a quarter and the Board would like to continue with that.

### **Ex-Officio Reports**

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- Nick Bridgeman
  - KUB has finished up work in the Holston Hills are just before the early December storms came through.
    - The updates helped to keep outages minor and the main areas held up well.
  - KUB is working in Sequoyah Hills for a couple more months.
  - They will be working in Fountain City in the Broadway area soon.
  - KUB is working the Gibbs area in the county.
  - Overall around 1000 miles have been worked on in the past year.
  - KUB will be sending out post card notification for areas KUB will be doing tree work in.
- Ben Nanny
  - There is a nationwide effort with Weed Wrangle to help combat invasive species and Ijams Nature Center is the representative for Knoxville.
    - Mary Vestal Park and Ijams are sites that have been set. They need 3 more places to work at.
    - The next Weed Wrangle will be March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Lee Rumble
  - There will be a 2-day event with 12 speakers for commercial contractors/professionals to provide education and management help.
    - This event will also help with points towards certifications.
    - This will be in person at the UT conference on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **City of Knoxville Tree Board History**

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- Kasey provided a brief history of the Tree Board and its achievements for the new Tree Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

## Upcoming Events

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- January 15<sup>th</sup> Trees Knoxville will be hosting a planting at Mary Vestal Park.
- Volunteer Forester 2 classes will begin on January 12<sup>th</sup>.
- UT conference on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- There will be a Tree Walk on January 22<sup>nd</sup> with Trees Knoxville.
- Trees Knoxville will be hosting a tree planting in the Fort on February 26<sup>th</sup>.