

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 5, 2022**

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The meeting was called to order at 8:34 am by Dan Steinhoff. Other board members present were Bob Graves, Charles Batey, Kayla Stuart, Nick Bridgeman, Gordon Coker, Jessica Rodocker, and Natalia Almonacid.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, Jessie Hillman, and David McGinley.

Visitor this week was Cara Sullivan.

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**Action Items for May**

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- Approve April Minutes: Bob Graves made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Gordon Coker.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

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- The Forest Avenue project (where 40 trees were planted) has had some vandalism issues and lost 3 out of the 40 trees so far.
  - This was part of the third phase of a campus project like this. Though this area has the highest tree mortality rate over any other area in the City of Knoxville.
  - Cara Sullivan with Americorp has been going over to check on the project on a weekly basis.
  - All the trees have now been staked to help deter more vandalism.
- The Master Plan has been moved from part of the Capital budget to part of the Operations budget of Public Service.
  - The funding is not guaranteed just yet. The plan is to proceed as though funded for now.
  - The grant is readied to be submitted to the state and will be asking for a matching \$40,000 and will be sent in with the RFP (request for Proposal).
- Kasey was approached by Jennifer First an Assistant Professor from the University of Tennessee College of Social Work that they had received a grant from NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) for a heat island study.
  - They are looking for volunteers to drive different parts of Knoxville during specific parts of the day to gather the data.
  - The information gathered from this study could help direct the Master Plan.
  - There are around 20 communities across the United States that were selected to participate.
- Lakeshore Park
  - There are around 70 trees being removed as part of Phase 2 of the Lakeshore project.

- They are shifting the baseball fields from one side of the park to the other and adding an athletic center. The fields are being moved in such a way to preserve as many historical trees as possible.
- They are mitigating the loss of around 180 inches of trees and adding 2100 inches totaling around 700 trees.
- Many of the trees being removed are dead or dying anyways.
- Lakeshore Park has its own commission (LP Conservancy) and they have the whole plan on their website.

### **Trees Knoxville Update with Kasey Krouse**

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- The Volunteer Forester One class starts on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm.
  - There are already 15-20 people signed up for the class.
  - Registration is open on the Trees Knoxville website
- Tracie Hellwinckel resigned as the project manager of Trees Knoxville.
- Trees Knoxville (TK) met last week to discuss replacing Tracie's position.
  - TK Board has currently split up the responsibilities Tracie's position was responsible for.
  - TK Board would like to grow the organization and make her position into a full-time position.

### **Education Update with Charles Batey**

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- Charles Batey attended the Neighborhood Area Council (NAC) with Kasey Krouse, Tracie Hellwinckel, and Chad Weth.
  - Charles spoke there and was able to meet Debbie Sharp in person.
  - Some council members asked about an ability to ask questions about tree topics from the educational newsletter that Charles has been using, like a "Dear Abby" type back-and-forth.
- Charles has been reaching out more to continue broadening outreach. He is continuing to work on connecting more networks into one large network for the Tree Board to utilize for years to come.
- Some ideas for future educational items were a "Meet the Tree Board", advertising the Volunteer Forester class, something about the TN Agriculture Enhancement Program Grant for neighborhood associations, the "Difference between an Arborist and a Tree Cutter", and ISA pamphlets from treesaregood.org.

### **Ex-Officio Reports**

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- Lee Rumble
  - On June 14<sup>th</sup>, a Lunch and Learn will be held alongside the East TN NLA. Lunch will be 11 am – 1 pm at the UT Gardens first then the session will be at James Neubern with the first topic being color beds.

- This session will award TBA pesticide points.
- 2 more events like this will be held in July and August with topics TBD.
- Nick Bridgeman
  - KUB is also working to increase their outreach, utilizing their communications office better.
  - They have developed a tree-of-the-month calendar and Facebook post with information on trees in general. Next year will ideally be more locally tree based.
  - KUB has worked through some very challenging areas this year.
  - Around 300 miles of work will be done in the next 2 months.
  - KUB has noticed an increase in growth between pruning cycles. It may appear that there is heavy pruning but that is due to the large amounts of growth around the utility areas.
  - KUB is 6 months to a year behind on normal cycle maintenance.
  - KUB's system has held up much better with the improvements they have made recently.
  - KUB is starting to install fiber. AT & T and Comcast both have stepped up to install fiber as well but they don't prune to KUB's standards.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

### Upcoming Events

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- On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Volunteer Forester one class starts from 6-9 pm.
- On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tree Board meeting at 8:30 am at the Public Works Service Center at 3131 Morris Avenue.
- On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Lunch and Learn at UT Gardens.