

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:32 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Robert Graves, Daniel Steinhoff, Charles Kwit, Natalia Almonacid, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, and Nick Bridgeman.

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

Visitors this month were Saylor White, Cara Sullivan, Charles Batey, and Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville.

Action Items for October

- Approve September minutes: Robert Graves made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Dale Madden.
- Confirm Arbor Day date/time and events.
- Confirm FireWise program for October educational event.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- ISA Southern Tree Climbing Competition went well despite the rain.
 - The competition took place at Victor Ashe Park on September 17-19.
 - A conversation was started with Kasey about how to do the competition and make it more geographically centered in the chapter.
- A treble cleft sculpture at Country Music Park was removed and is being replaced.
 - There was a public forum with proposals on how to replace it.
 - Tom Welborn received a drawing from David Brace illustrating the replacement since Trees Knoxville has raised concern about potential impact on the trees in the park.
- Kasey has reached out to the Mayor but she is not able to attend Arbor Day if it is on November 5th, as was proposed, due to another commitment.
 - Kasey proposed scheduling the Arbor Day event for Tuesday, November 9th instead as the Mayor was available then.
 - Once the Mayor is confirmed on the schedule then Kasey will reach out to the City Council members.

Arbor Day Discussion

- Craig continued the discussion on moving Arbor Day to November 9th.
 - Tim Hester with Parks and Recreation suggested Arbor Day start no earlier than 11 am due to the potential issue with parking availability while pickleball is going on.

- 1 pm was also a suggested time to better match up with the West Hills Elementary School schedule and not interfere with their lunch time.
- Dale will reach out to the assistant principal and confirm a time that would work best for them.
- Craig shared his screen going over the schedule of events for Arbor Day.
- West Hills Elementary class is going to help with the planting of the trees.
- The City will provide a sound system and stage for the event with help from the Central Zone Special Events crew.
- Kasey will print and make copies of the Arbor Day booklet as needed.
- Tim Hester and Kasey walked around West Hills and selected locations to plant trees.
- KUB is providing the trees to be planted (Kasey is finalizing the selection of trees).

Education Update with Craig Walker

- The Education Committee is focusing heavily on Arbor Day.
- October's education event was supposed to be the FireWise program but it is still unclear as both the City and Ijams Nature Center are under Covid restrictions.
 - It was originally going to be this week (October 3rd through the 9th).
 - Kasey will reach out to Tom Simpson to get a better confirmation.
- Nick Bridgeman mentioned putting together a community event coordinating with local tree companies to work together on tree care. He will provide more information once he has gathered everything together.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville held a zoom board meeting and discussed potential new people joining their board.
- Tom also participated in a webinar about Utility Line Maintenance and the Impact on Trees.
- Tom participated in a different webinar about the Trust for Public Lands-Using School Grounds to Develop New Parks.
- There was a TN Watershed meeting on the 15th and 16th of September.
 - This meeting was with all groups involved in watersheds across the state and was aiming to develop some leadership for them all.
 - TN Tech is stepping up to lead and coordinate watershed activities.
- The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council has modified their arboretum requirements so now invasive species of trees do not count in developing an arboretum.
- Trees Knoxville did a tree walk at Holston River Park on September 25th and had a good turnout.
- The Volunteer Forester I is still open for registration. This class will be on October 13th.
 - 18 people are signed up so far—primarily AmeriCorps members.

- This class will run for 4 consecutive weeks 6-9 pm at different locations.
- The first class is October 13th, then October 20th, 27th, and November 3rd will be the last class.
- Trees Knoxville is hosting a community tree swap at the same time as the Knoxville Fall Festival on October 24th at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens.
 - The Fall Festival starts at 1 pm.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Lee Rumble:
 - Grounds management event will be January 20th and 21st.
 - Lee will reach out closer to that date for people to sign up as speakers.
 - Lee asked for locations to use as videos/classes about pruning, particularly fruit trees, specifically structure pruning.
 - Daniel Steinhoff suggested reaching out to the Knoxville Botanical Gardens.
 - Kasey Krouse offered to look for some city trees that Lee could use.
 - The Field Day events are open to the public and are drawing about 100 people on average.
 - They hold 4-6 a year and also have one large spring event.
 - These are free to attend and often provide food to attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- Volunteer Forester I class begins October 13th. Registration is still open.
- Tennessee Urban Forestry Council Virtual Conference will be on October 21st 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (CDT). Registration is open and link will be included below.
- Trees Knoxville Tree Swap/Knoxville Fall Festival will be on October 24th.
- November 4th Knoxville Tree Board meeting on Zoom at 8:30 a.m.
- November 9th Arbor Day event at 11 a.m. at West Hills Park.

Relevant Links

- “The Economic Impact of Urban Forestry in the United States”
<https://www.arboday.org/urban-forestry-economic/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOlu8T6qa4c> *Long term effects of the electrical rights-of-way vegetation management on floral and faunal communities* September 2021
 Carolyn Mahan, PhD, Penn State Altoona
 - Papers noted in the webinar:
 - <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0245146>

- https://sites.psu.edu/transmissionlineecology/files/2016/02/ISA_11-2020-Article.pdf
- <https://www.tpl.org/events/national/park-bench-chat-community-schoolyards-projects>
“Trust for Public Lands-Using School Grounds to Develop New Parks”
- https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvf-GtpjovGt2oEaSdbmeh_aQD8-DXogRY TUFC Virtual Conference Registration link.