

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by David Vandergriff. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Dale Madden, Tracie Hellwinckel, Patrick Beasley, Beth MacDonald, and Nick Bridgeman.

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

Visiting with the Tree Board this month was Guy Wyatt, Public Service, and Brian Rucker, State Forestry.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Busy year for Urban Forestry. They've had about 450 tree related work orders, which is an increase over last year at this time.
- The crew has made a lot of progress with the proactive work around the Summit Hill and Gay Street areas. Downtown pruning will continue as an effort to improve the look of this area, and to promote tree health.
- Urban Forestry has now moved into the new building on Morris Avenue. Landscaping for the facility is the next project for Urban Forestry.
- Due to the increase in temperatures this year, trees have been watered daily.
- An emerald ash borer problem was found on the Third Creek Greenway. There will be extensive work on the greenway to remove diseased trees beginning in October. KUB has also had to remove about 50 trees from the KUB campus.
- Tree diversity in the City is at a good level with the top 10 species. Dogwood, Red Maple, and Sugar Maple are at around 6%, Willow, Crepe Myrtle, and Red Bud are around 3%, and finally, Pin Oak, Zelkova, and Plane Trees are at around 2%. It is very important not to overplant any particular type of tree, so a balance is something that Kasey will keep in mind as he selects trees.
- Tree inventory numbers for public trees are at around 25,000.
- Urban Forestry is working on a new way to inform residents about trees in right-of-ways, and to inform them when the crews will be working on a tree in the right-of-way.

Education Committee by Nick Bridgeman

- Arbor Day will be held on November 4, 2016. Moreland Heights Elementary School will host the event. Poster information, including the entry deadline, has been sent out to the school for 4th and 5th grades. Posters will be judged by Board members on November 3, 2016. As part of the Arbor Day celebration, a tree or two will be planted at their new playground.
- Nick and Kasey will be working together on the website update. Board members have been encouraged to review the current website, and send comments to Nick concerning changes they would like to see. He would also like to review education materials and look into having the Tree Board's logo added to the information.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- The group has received an Arbor Day Grant to give away about 200 trees. The tree giveaway will be held at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens on November 19, 2016.
- Tom and Kasey visited the Silver Leaf Community, and marked locations for close to 62 trees. London Plane, Red Bud, and Bald Cypress will be planted. Tom has asked that the Board help

with training the volunteers that will be planting the trees. The trees will be coming from the Missouri Gravel Bed planted by Urban Forestry.

Policy Committee Report

David Vandergriff attended the public hearing on the MPC Parking Lot Ordinance. Many neighborhood groups were in attendance to voice their various concerns, which included tree size, inspection, and ordinance enforcement. Board members have drafted a letter to send to MPC voicing the Board's concerns and suggestions.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.