

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 2, 2023**

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The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:34 am. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Sylvia McLaurin, Brian O'Connor, Melissa Hinten, Bob Graves, and Jessica Rodocker.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Jessie Hillman, Lee Rumble, Nick Bridgeman, Charles Batey, Brian Pickett and Melanie Overall.

**Action Items for November**

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- Motion to approve October minutes made by Dan Steinhoff. All in favor, none opposed.

**City Update: Kasey Krouse**

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- Kasey passed around the Arbor Day tentative agenda for suggestions/corrections. The event will be held at Harriet Tubman Park on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.
  - The only regulatory issue he had was public trees will soon be on the old Supreme Court site.
  - There were 27 graduates at the most recent Volunteer Forester class and it was the largest so far. The next class will start in January and are always looking for speakers.
  - Work order requests are at 735 ytd, up 10% than all of 2022.
  - We are still watering.
  - Urban Forestry now has a full crew, with Jackson Beason as the new tree tech. He is a UT graduate.

**Trees Knoxville Update: Sophie Carter**

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- Sophie is hoping to see the new Volunteer Forester graduates at tree plantings.
  - There were 12 volunteers at Pond Gap on 10/21 to help clean out. Fruit tree pruning dates are scheduled for 2/19 and 4/1.
  - There were 35 people at the October tree walk. Looking for guide for November one. Kasey will lead the one in December. November and December need to be moved earlier in the month to avoid the holidays.
  - Dogwood Arts inquired about us assisting with planting at Lonsdale.
  - Knox County Watershed initiative demonstration in January to include planting and mulching.
  - It was suggested we get a consultant to help guide the \$1.7 million grant.

**Education Update: Sylvia McLaurin**

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- Jessie will write the November article.
  - Gordon and Sylvia sent out 40 emails to neighborhood organizations and only received 2 back. They are going to resend to obtain needs of the neighborhoods. Do they want tree selection

information, tree values for insurance, etc.? Once information is received, they will review their list of ideas on how to communicate.

#### **Urban Forest Master Plan Update: Kasey Krouse**

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- Tom Welbourn, Dale Madden and Kasey are reviewing the plan. It will be presented to the Steering Committee the week of 11/20 for review. The entire plan will be presented to the public on 12/1 and comments will still be accepted.

#### **Ex-Officio Reports and Others**

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- Jessica spoke about the landscape ordinance. She talked to Plans/Review and needs to contact Engineering, Chris Howley or Curtis Williams. She needs more participation, especially from the public. Aiming for presentation the end of January. Need to look at missing middle to see how tree canopy has been affected. Jessie is asking for comments on County Plans webpage. Brian mentioned parking in the Gill area and how that will affect trees. Maybe variance for canopy? Zoning looks at hardship-landscape, topography, streams, etc. Suggestion for permit apps to help trigger zoning issues. Jessie said the City's zoning amendment was delayed to 12/14. Jessie will email out a link for neighborhoods with historic overlays. Maybe add a tree protection overlay?
- Nick/KUB – KUB is doing maintenance work. Have had high number of service requests. They will be at Arbor Day.
- Brian Pickett with Bartlett Tree Experts attended meeting today. They have been in business since 1907 and recently opened Knoxville office off Lovell Road. He assists with pruning, preservation, etc. They do some consulting. They are all certified arborists. 70% of business is residential, with 30% being commercial.
- Brian O'Connor mentioned the Appalachian Mountain Bike Festival is this weekend. Had 3,000 last year.
- Jessica stated the summit on 11/3 is at capacity.
- Lee said about 60 people attended the conference at Fall Creek Falls and stated it was a really good conference. There were 13 people on the nursery tour and it was great! Grounds management scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.

#### **Upcoming Events**

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- November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Keep Knoxville Beautiful program "Reimagining the Asphalt Jungle", East Tennessee History Center. Admission is free and a free lunch, registration required.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – Weed Warriors Ambassador, Collier Preserve.
- November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm – Arbor Day at Harriet Tubman Park. Planting 14 trees.
- January 18-19, 2024 – Grounds Management