

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

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:32 am. Other board members present were Bob Graves, Gordon Coker, Charles Batey, Jessica Rodocker, Kelsey Jones, Kayla Stuart, Sylvia McLaurin, Charles Kwit, Dale Madden and Elaine Reed.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, Sophie Carter, Tim Hester, Allison Kelly, David McGinley, Ben Nanny and Melanie Overall.

Action Items for January

- Bob Graves motioned to approve January minutes. Approved as amended.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey stated the UFMP kickoff phase is 100% complete and moving forward with the discovery phase. He has 10-12 speaking engagements scheduled in neighborhoods. Jessica is speaking with the Board of Realtors and the greenway commission is coming up soon. Let Kasey know if there are any other meetings you would like him to schedule. Surveys are on knoxvilletreeplan.org.
- There is an advisory group meeting in the Community room on 2/23 at 8:00 am and an Open House on 4/20 in the Community room from 5:00-8:00 pm. The open house will have different stations to visit, not a presentation.
- Contractors are 1/3 of the way through planting. Two of the seven TAEP grant planting projects are complete. The Challenge grant was completed last Thursday.
- Ordinance violations: 1533 & 1537 Forest Avenue – used public trees while remodeling and destroyed 2 trees. Working with engineering to not issue C/O until cleared. 1111 Northshore – clearing on creek, need to provide new landscape plan.
- Kasey is going to Brentwood today to meet about TreesKnoxville to help get program started there.
- There were 26 Volunteer Forestry graduates last week.
- Also had a Knox County School training last week for tree pruning and to discuss their participating in master plan. They do not have a certified arborist but are interested in learning about proper pruning.
- Attended BMP meeting last week with Lee.
- City has one arborist position open. Three current employees working to get certifications.
- Sylvia asked if there are more trainings in mind for schools. Kasey said definitely, and is wanting them to ask for times when they are available.

Trees Knoxville Update with Dale Madden

- Dale – introduced Allison Kelly (Earthadelic). She will be helping with Trees Knoxville. Everyone introduced themselves.

- At the last TreesKnoxville meeting, went over board structure.
- Brendan Keegan (KUB) is a new board member.
- Ashley Kite Rowland was guest speaker via Zoom. She will assist with strategic assistance, grants and give board direction.
- Site One and Axton Logistics to help with planting at greenway at Blackstock.

Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Lee Rumble – Sam Adams, UT Arborist, additional funding has been approved by sustainable office. Five planting events completed and nine more to go. Five are TAEP. Sites are Cedar Bluff Middle, Spring Hill Elementary, Karnes High and Bluegrass Elementary. Have 120 more trees to plant. Had about 130 volunteers at 4 planting events and finished quickly. Two tabling events: February 10-12 Dogwood Arts and February 10th at Bluegrass Elementary. There are 110 registered for meeting at UT Conference Center. There is also a pruning/safety meeting at Nature's Way Montessori School on 2/8.
- Gordon – treeboard@knoxvilletn.gov email is available for anyone to ask questions. He also recently had a Q&A session at a neighborhood event.
- Kayla – wants to get information out in weekly Neighborhood Advisory. Suggestions include ordinances, link to master plan, events, education, native planting information, weed wrangles, Arbor Day, etc. She presented a monthly schedule to submit articles (200 words or less). The deadline is each Friday for the Tuesday publication. Kayla asked about the new email address and Kasey said he would forward all emails to Kayla and Gordon.
- Charles Batey – was working on contact list but didn't get anything completed. Will pass along what he has to Kayla. Need to include master gardeners, North Hills Garden Club, etc. Allison is putting out her monthly leaflet in a few days if we want to add anything. She sends it out and posts on social media the first of each month.
- Bob Graves – Asked if survey could go out to anyone and the answer is yes. Advisory Board meeting coming up. Have about 100 people signed up. If you have a group to speak to, let Kasey know and he will schedule. He will be glad to speak to garden clubs, master gardeners, etc. to introduce the UFMP. Emails are going to consultant, so not sure of feedback. Will need to ask Rachel.
- Tim Hester – thanked TreesKnoxville for the planting at Northwest greenway. Kasey said a few more trees need to be planted there and he will take care of it.
- Other discussion was if we have cards with survey QR codes/website to hand out. Sophie said we do and will get more printed. Allison wants some for Dogwood Arts and Jessica and Gordon need quite a few by the 9th for upcoming meetings.
- Lee gave update on native grasses initial phase. There are 8 locations on the list. Not only grasses but plants you don't have to mow in areas like steep banks and low lying wet areas. Charles Batey asked about the new boat ramp at Mascot and it is one of the locations selected. There will be simple signage with QR codes to show yearly what it will look like. Seven Islands is a good example.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.

Upcoming Events

- February 23rd – Advisory group meeting, Community Room, 8:00 am
- March 2nd - Tree Board Meeting at the Public Works Service Center at 8:30am
- March 3rd – UT Arbor Day, time/location TBD
- March 11th - Weed Wrangle at Citizen's Cemetery and TBD Knox County Park sites - 9:30-12:30
- March 15th – Holston Hills Garden Club meeting – UFMP information will be presented and Dogwood Arts will also be there.
- April 20th – Open House, Community Room, 5:00-8:00 pm