

KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:31 am. Other board members present were Gordon Coker, Elaine Reed, Charles Kwit, Kelsey Jones, and Bob Graves

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Allison Kelly, Tim Hester, Randall Whitehead (COK Engineering), James Golden (citizen), Naomi Hansen (Planning Commission) and Melanie Overall.

Action Items for June

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- Bob motioned for May minutes to be approved, seconded by Gordon. All in favor; none opposed.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

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- Kasey reported work orders are up 20% ytd from last year, already at 70% of 2022's total for storm calls.
 - Watering cycle started several weeks ago.
 - Work at Country Music Park started last week, with PSD helping. Trees have been removed.
 - Have received a number of calls for fallen trees.
 - Have received an application for tree protection ordinance from Oak Ridge Lab. They want to measure climate @ local parks.
 - Today is the last speaking engagement - Bearden Middle School, 4:30-6:30 pm.

Trees Knoxville Update with Allison Kelly (representing Dale)

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- Trees Knoxville brochures are available to hand out.
 - On May 5th, she spoke with representatives from the Black Forest Project. This will piggyback off of existing plantings and they will reach out to community members for participation.
 - Trees Knoxville had a table at Waterfest.
 - The sign at Mary Vestel Park has been installed.
 - Sophie is tagging all TAEP grant trees.
 - Volunteer Forester class just wrapped up, with record 30 graduates.
 - On May 25th, there was a tree walk at UT.

- Dale is finishing up TAEP grant paperwork.
- Kasey added there are \$2 billion IRA grant funds, grant due 6/1. Patience Melnik has helped in writing the grant proposal. We are requesting \$1.7 million. The money will be used to partner with neighborhood groups to rid invasive species, Central Español, and KCDC are a few partners. The grant will also cover maintenance for several years.

Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Gordon – Sylvia has the next article due. He put out information about the last day for the survey. His neighborhood is going to do a tree walk at Open Streets, beginning at 2:00 and will have prize at end.
- Randall Whitehead (COK Engineering) reported there is a large TDEC grant coming in. Plans are to do stream restorations at Mary Vestel and Holston River Parks. Would like to partner with Kasey for plantings.
- Bob stated the open house on 5/11 went well. Kasey reported the consultants are processing the data received. The steering committee will meet later this month to establish goals. Will be conducting public presentations for feedback. Plan writing process will be next (Aug/Sept.) with release of draft plan. Final plan to be released by end of 2023.
- Tim – Challenge grants are due by 6/30, if any non-profits are interested.
- Elaine stated KUB work orders are averaging 25 calls per day, up considerably. There is a First Responders Safety Program that is open to the city and county. It is a 30 minute program and they will come to you to present. Right Tree program is going to garden clubs to speak and is also a 30 minute program.
- Kelsey's last meeting will be July. She has accepted a job in Denver.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

Upcoming Events

- June 3rd – Open House at Anderson Estate Gardens
- June 4th – Open Streets, 2:00-6:00 pm, with table set up at Magnolia and Central
- July 6th – Tree Board meeting at PSD Community Room, 8:30 am.