

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
AUGUST 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:30 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Andrew Caylor, Robert Graves, and Anna Toon.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Lee Rumble, UT Ag Extension; and David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering; Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; and Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation.

Visitors were Tracie Hellwinckel, Project Manager for Trees Knoxville.

**Action Items for August**

- Approve July minutes.

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- Planting locations will be finalized next week.
- Kasey will be getting a new AmeriCorps member
- ISA Southern tree climbing competition will be held at Victor Ashe Park on September 25-27, 2020.
- Inspections would like to join the September meeting to discuss elements of the Landscape components of the Code with the Board.
- Kasey mentioned the Canopy Assessment that Trees Knoxville will be doing. He will be focusing a large part of his time and attention on this for the next few months. Trees Knoxville has signed an agreement with the consultants on that project and they are currently getting the KGIS data for them to be able to look at the different geographical features in the City and the County. Tom added that they have gotten commitment from both the City of Knoxville and KUB to help fund this endeavor. The completion of this project should be between December 2020 and January 2021.
- Kasey informed the group of the various components, which include, but not limited to:
  - They will look at the amount of tree cover, other greens space, water, fair ground, and impervious surfaces.
  - They will look at aerial photos as well as infrared and other data sets to break apart the different areas, and also the different geographical scales and features over the entire city as well as the county.
  - Utility Right of Ways, County Commission and City Council districts and Census tracks.
  - City maintenance zones will also be looked at.

**Education Report & Arbor Day** by Craig Walker

- The Education Committee is planning to do monthly online Zoom webinars beginning in September. There was a discussion on the best time to have the most participants.
- The Education Committee will utilize organizations like Trees Knoxville, Master Gardeners, UT Extension, Ijams, City of Knoxville to help promote the event through their email and social media. The first topic will be "The City of Knoxville Tree Protection Ordinance" with Kasey Krouse and will occur in September (date TBD).
- It was also suggested that if the Tree Board was going to do monthly talks that they commit to either the same date each month (i.e. the 10th) or the same day during a certain week (i.e. third Thursday of each month).
- In October, the Tree Board plans to do a two-part series on tree selection and proper planting techniques.

### **Trees Knoxville Report** by Tom Welborn

- Tom reported on the Policy Committee which was held on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. They reviewed the present ordinance as it stands, and a review of what Public Works is proposing to change. Kasey created a graph, and a markup (which he shared with the group). Another committee meeting is planned before the September Board meeting, to determine where to go from here.
- Fifteen certifications were issued at the most recent Volunteer Forestry Training class.
- Watering at several of the sights that they've planted trees is still ongoing.
- Trees Knox is working with Westwood House to help them get certified as an Arboretum.
- Trees Knox has sent a draft plan to Dow Chemicals and Legacy Park on the planting plan for Dale Avenue.
- They're doing maintenance work on the pollinator trees at the Knoxville Botanical Garden.

### **Ex-officio Reports**

- Ben Nanny reported that many of their fundraisers at Ijams will be a virtual.
  - The Hummingbird Festival has been spread out over the course of the month of August in order to accommodate small groups.
  - Ijams will be doing a species inventory of Flora and Fauna this fall.
  - They're also developing propagation sites which will serve as a seed source for a lot of their restoration efforts and grow plant materials.
  - Two new AmeriCorps members will be joining them next week.
- Tim Hester reported that the parks are seeing a lot of activity in the parks. They are, however, continuing to restrict large public gatherings. They are not doing any indoor or outdoor facility rentals.
- Lee Rumble informed the Board of the spread of laurel wilt that's killing Sassafras trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.