

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 4, 2022**

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The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:33 am. Other board members present were Bob Graves, Charles Kwit, Gordon Coker, Dan Steinhoff, Jessie Hillman, Kelsey Jones, Natalia Almonacid, Charles Batey, Jessica Rodocker, and Kayla Stuart.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, David McGinley, Diane Warwick, Dale Madden and David McGinley.

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**Action Items for August**

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- Motion to approve July minutes made by Gordon Coker and seconded by Bob Graves. The motion passed.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

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- The City has selected Walker Nursery as the vendor for purchasing plants.
- The tree planting bid mandatory meeting is today at 11am in the Public Works Service Center to go over the RFPs and the bid will close next week.
- Urban Forestry crews are basically in storm cleanup constantly and working to get roads open. Not much work is getting done proactively.
- The planting list is being put together so Kasey is visiting sites to check for tree loss.
  - So far less than 5% tree loss.
- There has been a lot of growth due to the heavy rain season.
- There are many projects with streetscape components on the horizon.
  - Blount Henley corner and Suttree Landing will have streetscape components.
  - Some streetscape work on South Gay St and Henley St.
- The City has received many applications for developments along Cumberland Avenue Corridor.

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**Trees Knoxville Update with Dale Madden**

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- Trees Knoxville had a meeting with Citizens Cemetery to follow up on a restoration project that was started last year.
- Trees Knoxville is getting ready for the planting season.
  - TK has been awarded the Challenge Grant to help plant trees along the NW Greenway Connector.
  - TAPE grant was also awarded.
    - This grant will be used for 5 different sites in tandem with Keep Knoxville Beautiful.
- Planting is to start in November/December time depending on the nurseries.

- Master plan bids are due back from consultants on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Trees Knoxville is attempting to get the County on board with the plan.
  - Tom Welbourne is heading up making those connections.
- TK is in the process of talks with KKB about sharing resources and partnering on projects.
- TK is looking for board members, ideally those involved in the city and/or with an arbor related job.
  - They have 3-4 vacancies now, 5-6 will be available by the end of the year.
  - They are particularly looking for a social media manager/marketing person.
- TK held a Zoom call with interested vendors for the Master Plan and are expecting 5-6 different proposals—none of which are local firms.
  - They have a selection committee ready to roll.

#### **Education Update with Charles Batey**

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- Charles will send out an email with a list of topics for other tree board members to take and write a piece about then send back to Charles to publish.
- Trees Knoxville is looking to host tree walks again and Charles would like get educators to lead the walks.
  - Lee Rumble offered to help lead one.
  - Charles and TK are looking for neighborhoods to host a tree walk.

#### **Arbor Day with Kasey Krouse**

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- Debbie Sharp is spearheading Arbor Day on the neighborhood side.
- Sam Duff park has been selected as the park to plant in.
  - The park was selected as the playground area would benefit from some tree cover and they are working on arboretum status.
- Several neighborhoods with arboretum or wildlife sanctuary will have tables there at the park.
- The event is November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

#### **Master Plan Update with Kasey Krouse**

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- Kasey is going to share a spreadsheet with tree board members to add contact information for stakeholders.
- This will be shared with the consultant once they are selected.

#### **Ex-Officio Reports**

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- Lee Rumble
  - ETNLA last event is this Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.
    - Registration is closed.

- The event is approved for ISA and TDA points.
- The Eastern Region Nursery tour is still in the works.
- There are some concerns about a possibly new vascular disease in red buds.
  - This is affecting both nurseries field and pot grown trees.
  - There is no known cause yet.
  - It is characterized by flagging, branch loss, streaking, and significant canopy dying back.
  - Newer plantings seem to be most affected.
- Diane Warwick
  - The TAPE grant has received 20 applicants.
    - The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council was able to fund all requests.
    - Only 6-7 municipalities and the rest were non-profit organization.
    - There was more diversity with requests.
  - TUFC has LSER grants for canopy studies.
    - They are hoping to get communities/cities to get a canopy study done and then move on to a management plan.
  - TUFC does not have the capacity to hold the state Urban Forestry position.
- Kayla Stuart
  - On Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, University of Tennessee students and Champion trees are holding a party for the planet at Frog Juice Kombucha.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am.

## Upcoming Events

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- On August 9<sup>th</sup>, ETNLA is holding their last event.
- On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Master plan bids are due back from consultants.
- On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Tree Board meeting at 8:30 am at the Public Works Service Center at 3131 Morris Avenue.
- On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, University of Tennessee students and Champion trees are holding a party for the planet at Frog Juice Kombucha.