

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
DECEMBER 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Tom Welborn at 8:35 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Jenny Arthur, Andrew Caylor, Tracy Polite-Johnson, Tracie Hellwinckel, and Nick St. Sauveur.

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

Special guest speaker was Wes Soward of AMBC-SORBA. Also visiting with the Tree Board was Charles Beaty.

Action Items for December

- November minutes were reviewed and approved.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey informed the Board that next year the tree planting contract will have to go out for bid. Moving forward all holes for the 500 trees scheduled to be planted will be dug by hand. On Tuesday, a tree planting training session was conducted with the current contractor.
- Another Volunteer Forestry class will begin in January 2019. The focus will be on advanced training for the previous graduates. All classes will be held indoors at the Public Works Facility on Morris Avenue. The cost will be \$30 for four sessions.
- Around seventy people attended Paul Reis' Rethink Trees seminar on December 5th.
- Kasey held a chainsaw safety class with the city's crews, and the Knoxville Botanical Garden staff.
- This is the last meeting for Traci Hellwinckel. She will be replaced by Nick St. Sauveur. Nick Bridgeman will be staying on for another term.

Special Guest Speaker: Wes Soward, Appalachian Mountain Bike Club (AMBC)

AMBC is a chapter of the Southeast regional division of IMBA. They are a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable trail access for off-road bicyclists. Some of the things they do are:

- Maintaining trails that mountain biker's ride, and other user groups rely on, which include many trails around Knoxville. Some of the trails they've built around Knoxville are at Sharps Ridge, IC King Park, and Concord.
- AMBC puts together fundraisers, and volunteer work days to help maintain trails.
- Not only building and maintaining trails, but looks for ways to improve user's experience on every trail. Wes said that his group would be open to the idea of partnering with Trees Knoxville, and other groups to remove invasive vegetation from these areas with trails, and to create a master plan for these areas.
- The group works hard to improve and promote biker and pedestrian coexistence on the trails, and are committed to educating mountain bicyclists to ride sensitively and responsibly in order to protect the natural environment.
- They've partnered with the City of Knoxville on trail expansions at Stanley-Lippincott Park, and they're about to begin a big expansion project at Marie Myers Park. They raised \$34,000 for trail improvements at Marie Myers.
- For more information and volunteer opportunities, visit their website at www.ambc-sorba.org.

Education & KUB Report by Nick Bridgeman

- Nick proposed that we have more public presentations like the Rethink Trees seminar. The thoughts and ideas that come from these meetings can provide valuable resources and educational opportunities for the Board.
- Tom and Kasey recommended that the Education committee take the lead on putting a plan in place to ensure that we have future educational opportunities such as this seminar. The committee assignments will be held at our January meeting.
- Everyone involved and in attendance loved the Arbor Day presentation, and kids were very enthusiastic about the tree planting.
- KUB is still working in the Rocky Hill and Corryton areas, and work is beginning in the Woodlawn Pike, Fairway-Fairmont, Hendricks Chapel area, and others. For more information about where they're working, go to KUB.org to view the interactive map.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- On November 6th, Trees Knoxville met with members of the local chapter of the ISA to discuss involvement in next year's conference.
- On November 8th, Tom went out to Concord road to measure what might be a Knox County champion Chinkapin Oak. A road widening project is slated for that area, and the landowner would like to see the tree saved.
- Mike Fowler was added to Trees Knoxville board. They've also moved forward with the Project Manager position.
- About 300 trees were given away to around 83 families at this month's tree giveaway. Another tree giveaway will be planned for some time in January.
- Pint Night is scheduled for December 13th at the Hexagon.
- Twelve Dogwood trees were planted at the Morningside Community Center on December 4th.
- A holiday tree walk is scheduled for December 18th @ 5:30 on Market Square.

Ex-Officio reports

- Tim Hester reported that Parks and Recreation is doing remodeling at Cal Johnson. A couple of trees will be going in there.
- Benny Nanny reported that exotic removal training will take place this Saturday at Ijams. In February, IPC out of Nashville will be coming in to do an exotic removal on a newer 14 acre parcel that hasn't been opened to the public. The goal is total eradication.
- Diane will be attending an invasive plant conference in Nashville next week.
- Charles Beaty reported that there will also be exotic removal at Sam Duff Field.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.