

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:31 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Nick Bridgeman, Craig Walker, Bob Graves, Charles Kwit, and Natalia Almonacid.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, David McGinley, Diane Warwick, Tim Hester, and Ben Nanny.

Visiting this month is Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville and Charles Batey.

Action Items for February

- Approve January Minutes: Tom Welborn made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Graves

Education Update with Craig Walker

- There is a tree driving tour in the works. Suggestions included: the Champion Trees of Knox County; partnering with UTK to include the campus in the tour; and speaker topics on mulching, pruning, and topping.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey encouraged everyone to register for the free Tree City USA conference. He is doing a presentation along with a Q&A session.
- City of Knoxville is working with ISA Southern to host a tree risk assessment course at Knoxville Botanical Gardens.
- Kasey noted that the Missouri gravel beds he and his crew have been using have shown promising results in restoring/salvaging root systems of trees that have received damage.
- Urban Forestry is looking for locations to place shade trees, please send Kasey any recommendations.
- There is federal property located at the 700 block of Locust St that has many large trees. While the City has no jurisdiction over this area, the Tree Board can make recommendations to preserve the trees on the City's behalf.
- The Tree Mitigation Bank passed its second reading at Council. The application was sent to board members, so please review and send any feedback.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Tom sent out the City's Sidewalk Study, encouraged everyone to review and find out what sidewalks are planned for your neighborhood.
- 42 trees were planted with 48 volunteers this past weekend.
- Trees Knoxville is working on extending its grant with the TN Division of Forestry for the Canopy Assessment.
- Knox County has agreed to provide \$10k for the Canopy Assessment.
- Tom also talked about Cornell University's bare root plantings as an option for cost saving and root growth success.

Special Guest-Charles Batey

- Charles is the owner/operator and arborist at Knox Tree Care, which has been in business for a few years.
- He is looking to establish his growing business, focusing on tree preservation and care, and encouraging his customers to use removal or topping as a last resort.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Ben Nanny thanked Nick St. Sauveur and his crew for their Adopt a Trail sponsorship. Recently they removed an invasive Paulownia tree. Ben is preparing for a virtual Weed Wrangle this year.
- Diane Warwick noted that Tree Campus USA did not have high numbers this year due to campuses unable to meet requirements for holding classes. The Growth Award for Tree Cities has been amended to encourage expansion of current city forestry programs.
- David McGinley said that landscaping plans have been submitted for the former Baptist Hospital site.
- Tim Hester stated that he expects construction to begin within 30 days on a greenway project that will connect Victor Ashe Park and Western Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Upcoming Events

- Tree City USA Conference: February 10, 17, & 24, 2021
- Knoxville Tree Tour: Date TBD (potentially Monday, February 15)
- Tennessee State Arbor Day: Friday, March 5
- Tennessee Tree Day: Saturday, March 20
- COK Office of Neighborhood Empowerment Conference: Saturday, March 27