

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 1, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:34 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Daniel Steinhoff, Craig Walker, and Natalia Almonacid.

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

Visiting this month is Tracie Hellwinkle with Trees Knoxville.

Action Items for July

- Approve June minutes: Postponed to August meeting due to lack of quorum.
- Discuss and Vote on Committee Assignments: Postponed to August meeting.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Large number of requests for planting this upcoming season.
- Kasey will finalize his planting list in August, so any requests or projects coming up should be submitted to him before the start of August.
- \$9000 was added to the Tree Bank to help with tree planting. That's equal to about 20% of Kasey's annual budget.
- In regards to the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment, they are adding a city executive summary (graphics with little text).
- Kasey will meet with the mayor in about 3 weeks to go over both the Canopy Assessment and the Executive Summary.
- Some interesting data has come from the canopy assessment.
 - Lost 700 acres of tree cover over the past 10 years (about 1% overall).
 - North Knoxville did well, other areas not so much.
 - Mostly expected and may even gain that back with all the tree planting Trees Knoxville and other groups across the city are doing.
 - Several of the trees that have been planted in the past few years are likely not big enough to be picked up yet.
 - Looking at the canopy data by different zones/council districts is an eye-opener.
 - Most of the loss was on residential property which does not have tree regulations.
 - Downtown Knoxville saw a 1% increase over the 10 years.
- Currently, the canopy assessment is under review with Trees Knoxville. Will go to the Tree Board for review as well before final publish.
- Kasey will do a presentation on all the data gathered at the August 5th meeting.
- The data from the assessment will guide the future of Urban Forestry in the city.

- The Canopy Assessment focuses on trends over the past 10 years and will help guide future management or master plan for the city.
- The Canopy Assessment can also be used on where to focus planting efforts such as in communities with a significant amount of potential canopy available.
- Kasey has put together some recommendations from other cities and communities that have done a canopy assessment on what next steps to take.
- TUFC (Tennessee Urban Forestry Council) has asked Kasey to also give a presentation at the three conferences they are planning for West, Middle, and East Tennessee in hopes to help other communities and cities do their own canopy assessments and guide where they spend resources for planting and maintaining trees.
- The tentative date for the West conference is October 26, 2021.
- Ijams Nature Center was suggested by Kasey as a place to hold the East conference.
- Kasey met with the state Division of Forestry and Knoxville Fire Department to discuss how to help Knoxville communities and neighborhoods become Fire Adaptive.
- They have asked if the Tree Board will support a live demonstration/talk about Fire preparedness in October.
- The Tree Board has planned to add this event as the Tree Talk for October and it will be led by KFD and the Division of Forestry.
- The event will be primarily focused on communities in South Knoxville and around Sharp's Ridge where they are most at risk.
- Kasey asked Ben Nanny about whether Ijams Nature Center would be open to hosting the event. Ben will let the Tree Board know more in August.
- The Tree Board will try and help publicize the event along social media chains in conjunction with KFD.
- Dale Madden also mentioned that it is the 5-year anniversary of the Gatlinburg Fire, so Tree Board could lean on that to help publicize the event.
- The City of Knoxville was awarded the TAEP grant. Diane stated that the canopy study added a lot of weight to the City of Knoxville's proposal.
- The Tree Ordinance is still in final review with Law Department.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville has been busy applying for more grants—they've applied for up to \$18,000 in grant money.
- Trees Knoxville was awarded the TAEP grant as well. They plan to use it to help plant 20 trees in the Fort Sanders neighborhood.
- Trees Knoxville applied for the DOW grant to help with planting in Mechanicsville but have not heard back yet.
- Trees Knoxville applied for the "Shade Your Stream" grant from Tennessee River Bank Network to help with prepping the area and community education in the Vestal community by Mary Vestal Park.

Education Update with Craig Walker

- June's webinar with Kasey was successful with about 15 attendees and 20+ views on YouTube.
- Tracie Hellwinkle and Lee Rumble have talked about doing a video on how to water ornamentals and trees in the heat of the summer. May do a webinar/ live showing towards the end of July.
- The University of Tennessee Extension has a new social media manager so Lee could reach out to them and help push out and publicize the webinar/live education events for the Tree Board.
- Lee also mentioned he would do a planting education event in September.
- The Fire Adaptive Community event will serve as the education event for October.
- Arbor Day will be featured in November and Craig will chair that.
 - Arbor Day event will be held in a community park like last year instead of in a school as in the years before 2020.

Committee Assignment Discussion

- Committee Assignments tabled until the August meeting.
- Kasey mentioned that the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Education Committee Chair tenures will be up in December so the Tree Board will need to be looking to elect new chairs and expect new members.
- More discussion will be held at the August meeting.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Lee Rumble:
 - Lee Rumble stated that UT Extension has been busy especially with cicada damage calls.
 - There is a new pest in the area called Box Tree Moth that may become an issue with Boxwood, Holly, and Euonymus trees.
 - It was detected in Canada in 2018 and has yet to be found in the United States.
 - There are 2 species variants and they have multiple generations in a year.
 - Lee asked that if anyone on Tree Board sees caterpillars on boxwoods to report it to him or the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
 - *Sudden Oak Death* while more prevalent out West in California and Oregon has been found in some nursery stock here in Knoxville.
 - This is a disease that is prevalent on oak species, rhododendrons, camellias, and other common horticultural plants.
 - East Tennessee climate is not a desirable environment for the disease so while possible for it to spread it is not likely.
 - The Grounds Management Short Course is planned for January 20th and 21st in 2022.
 - UT Extensions social media manager will help make UT Extension, Tree Board, and Trees Knoxville more visible to the public.

- Tim Hester:
 - Fountain City Park and Duck Pond are now the City of Knoxville Property.
 - Kasey stated that Lion's Club loved to plant trees but did not maintain them and topped a lot of them.
 - The City will go in and clean up the trees, repair the playground, and repair the walkways.
 - David McGinley stated that Stormwater will be continuing maintenance on the duck pond.
 - Tim stated that the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club will pass ownership of 25 acres of land to the City of Knoxville that will be added to William Hastings Park.
 - In addition, they will add several bike trails throughout while doing their best to work around the trees where possible.
 - Tom Welborn mentioned that Knoxville History Project presented a webinar on the history of the various parks and gardens throughout the City of Knoxville.
 - Tim mentioned that parks are starting to see the normal seasonal decline in activity in parks during the day.
 - The construction in North Knoxville is should be able to start later this month as the last of the utility poles have been relocated.
 - Parks and Rec will reach out to Kasey next year about planting some trees in the area.
- Diane Warwick:
 - Both Trees Knoxville and the City of Knoxville were granted the TAEP grant.
 - 14 of the 16 applicants were approved—\$106,550 was granted.
 - Several 1st-time applicants which means that more communities are getting involved in forestry.
- Ben Nanny:
 - Ijams Nature Center is back to normal.
 - Heavy traffic around the quarry.
 - Ijams visited and helped clear out invasive weeds in the Citizen's Cemetery.
 - Weed Warrior Program is entering its 3rd year and expanding with the help of the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- Upcoming webinar/live event with Lee Grumble at the end of July. Date is TBD.
- August 5th meeting at the Public Works Center at 8:30 a.m.

Relevant Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXDp-fJBi8> The recorded webinar from June with Kasey Krouse.

- <https://www.facebook.com/utextknoxcounty/>
<https://twitter.com/utextknoxco?lang=en> The social media pages for UT Extension.
- <https://youtu.be/oiSgb5nKKeY> "Our Parks and Gardens" from the Knoxville History Project.