

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 1, 2024**

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The meeting was called to order by Bob Graves at 8:33 am. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Sylvia McLaurin, Brian O'Connor, Elaine Reed, Charlotte Rodina, Kayla Stuart, and Dan Steinhoff.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Aoife Whitaker, Jessie Hillman, Brian Pickett, Tim Hester, and Melanie Overall.

**Action Items for February**

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- Motion to approve January minutes made by Charles Kwit, second by Brian O'Conner. All in favor, none opposed.

**City Update: Kasey Krouse**

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- Tree planting has started but a little behind due to the snow. Schedule will be tight. The dog park on Ashville Highway has been planted.
  - Finalizing grant to be submitted tomorrow to include urban waste and invasive species.
  - Budget requests – PSD is looking to fund a smaller bucket truck, contract help for invasive species, plant healthcare and an Americorp person.
  - Volunteer Forester classes began last night with 43 people. Kayla presented and did a good job.

**Trees Knoxville Update: Sophie Carter**

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- There are 2 plantings scheduled for this weekend. Need volunteers to help at Lonsdale at 9:00 Saturday to plant 12 trees. The other is at West High (17 trees). West has plenty of volunteers with alumni, students and other volunteers.
  - Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> – planting through UT for MLK event on Tarleton Avenue.
  - Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – Canopies for Campuses planting 10-12 trees at Sarah Moore Greene.
  - KKB Orchids awards are next week and Trees Knoxville was nominated.
  - Trees Knoxville is hosting STEM nights (Kerstin and Sophie). Bluegrass Elementary event is next Tuesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Volunteer Forester class consisted mostly of UT students, garden clubs, Americorp and neighborhood groups. Was diversified.
  - Trees Knoxville recently interviewed for the Executive Director position. They are finalizing their decision and hope to announce soon.

**Education Update: Kayla Stuart**

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- Kerstin, Sylvia and Kayla had 20-30 kids at the Nourish Farmers Market on Saturday.
  - Charlotte has February article.

## Urban Forest Master Plan Update: Kasey Krouse

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- Today is the deadline to submit comments. Release date event 3/21 @ 9:00 am at the Public Service Community Room.
- Need a team to provide monthly updates. Trees Knoxville will be a big part of implementation and would like someone from KUB to also be on the team. Elaine will ask Gabe to attend. Implementation team will be introduced at 3/21 event. Kayla is asking if the mayor can reinforce and hopefully, encourage/challenge the county to do something similar. Sylvia said neighborhoods want to be involved and maybe get Office of Neighborhoods involved.

## Advocacy Update: Kasey Krouse

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- They have met several times. Finalizing a few things and when to present to council. Looking at landscape architect code. Tree protection ordinance to be implemented. Need an administrator to oversee/review/facilitate conversations with architects and developers. Kasey is working on how to make that position work for improvements. Jessie said Codes and Engineering seem to be commenting more on tree protection.

## Ex-Officio Reports and Others

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- Tim reported Lakeshore Park is now an arboretum, joining North Hills, Sam Duff and Sequoyah Hills.
- Elaine reported the vegetation group will be at the Home and Garden Show this weekend. They are at 25% replacement after tree removal and are hoping to get that number higher. Tree giveaway scheduled for this fall and looking to add more to it than just giving away the trees. Hoping for larger trees and advising homeowners the best place on property to plant. Also, maybe sending educational material out with the vouchers. KUB does go out to community groups for right tree right place presentations. It was suggested to get Debbie from Office of Neighborhoods to assist.
- Jessie – City council's 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on middle housing is 2/6. UFMP needs to be adopted by them to put on their website. Growth Policy Community Plan (20 year plan) is approved and moving to Farragut for approval. Plan is posted on AdvanceKnox.org. Knox County Parks & Rec BLOOM program is being implemented now with recent plantings.
- Charlotte said Lee has prunings scheduled at Beardsley. On 3/8, 1:00-3:30 will be pruning apples/pears. On 4/18, 1:00-3:30 will be pruning stone fruit trees.
- Email from Ben (unable to attend). The NCCC team I spoke about at our last meeting has completed the Ijams section of their project and are moving on to Baker Creek today. The trail corridor is much more open now and I am planning for repeat treatments with a backpack sprayer in the next two years to address resprouts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.

## Upcoming Events

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- February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00am – tree plantings at Lonsdale and West High
- February 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – KKB Orchid Beautification Awards
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – tree planting for MLK event on Tarleton Avenue
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – tree planting at Sarah Moore Greene
- March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:30 pm – Apple and pear tree pruning at Beardsley
- March 21, 9:00am – UFMP release event at Public Service building, Community Room
- April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:0pm – Stone fruit tree pruning at Beardsley