

KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Bob Graves at 8:33 am. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Gordon Coker, Sylvia McLaurin, Jessica Rodocker.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Sophie Carter, Jessie Hillman, Tim Hester, Aoife Whitaker, David McGinley, Lee Rumble, Nick Bridgeman, Ben Nanny, and Melanie Overall.

Action Items for October

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- Quorum was not present to approve July & August minutes. Will approve at October meeting.

City Update: Kasey Krouse

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- Kasey reported 2 tree bank applications from same contractor for Cumberland Avenue. One new TPO application for North Hills Garden Club to plant.
 - Storm update – still working on calls, hangers, etc. Several parks were heavily hit and still working at Lakeshore Park. We are still in brush pickup mode and starting to catch up. Just don't have a place to take the brush.
 - Going to nursery in 2 weeks to pick out trees and start marking planting sites.
 - Had 300 calls for trees in road and 100 hanger calls.
 - KUB had 75,000 power outages. This was the 2nd most expensive storm in history, with over 2,000 events.
 - We have 3 board vacancies. The City has started receiving applications for open Tree Service Technician position.

Trees Knoxville Update: Sophie Carter

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- Sophie reported clean up at Citizens Cemetery is 9/9, not 9/6 as listed on August minutes.
 - Kasey led the August tree walk.
 - There are 3 schools picked for Canopies for Campus: Pond Gap, Lonsdale & Chilhowee. She and Preston (Earthadelic) are going to pick trees for Pond Gap today.
 - With the TAEP grant, 4 sites have been selected for this fall.

- Pond Gap fruit tree restoration project: there are 30 mulberries in need of pruning. Lee will do pruning there in February and April. Clean up date at Pond Gap in October has not been set.

Education Update: Gordon Coker

- Gordon has received good feedback on the articles from David Sharp, but none from the public.
- Sylvia has joined the education committee.
- Kasey has September article and it was suggested he do a storm update as topic.

Urban Forest Master Plan Update: Bob Graves

- On 9/13, update meeting for the public, 5:30 pm in the Public Service Community Room.
- Jessica suggested the advisory committee to continue to be involved to guide and direct.

Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Nick/KUB – gave updates on areas they are working. Just started in Whittle Springs, Fairmont and Fairview. Just finished in Powell. Broadacres fared well from past storm. He picked up tree planting/replacement program for maintained yards. If tree removed by KUB, owner can have another tree planted on any of the properties they own. Plans to increase tree plantings by 20% this year.
- Jessie reported on Level 2 Hillside Protection from last month. They were able to get protection on the hillside overlay. The development plan was withdrawn. She also introduced Emily from Americorp who is working with her on outreach and research.
- Lee reported he trained 4 instead of 1 at the Boys & Girls Club and hosted a small tree walk with them. On 9/27, BLOOM will be planting a wildflower meadow at Tarleton Park. Will also be planting at Gibbs. He did not receive the wildflower grant. Tree Walk on 9/15. TUFC annual conference is October 12th and 13th at Fall Creek Falls. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Pruning dates are in February and still needs to set October dates.
- Tim introduced Aoife as the new greenway ranger. She is with Americorp and will be here until June 2024. She gave an overview of what she is doing. Tim reported parks were a mess after the storm.
- Ben is getting ready for their biggest fundraiser: Twilight @ Ijams is this weekend. They had minimal storm damage. He is expanding Weed Wrangler program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.

Upcoming Events

- September 9th – Volunteer event at Citizens Cemetery, 8:00-11:00am
- September 13th, 5:30pm - Trees Knoxville public announcement, Public Service Community Room
- September 27, October 4, October 18, October 25 – Volunteer Forester Classes
- October 5th – Tree Board meeting, 8:30am Public Service Community Room
- October 12th and 13th – TUFC annual conference, Fall Creek Falls
- November 2nd – Arbor Day at Harriet Tubman Park, in conjunction with Black Forest
- January 18-19, 2024 – Grounds Management