

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
FEBRUARY 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:36 a.m. Other board members present were Nick Bridgeman, Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, Jenny Arthur, and Nick St. Sauveur.

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

Visitors present were Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe, UT Forestry Dept.; Mariah Lowry, AmeriCorps temp with Urban Forestry; Michael Dorsey, Executive Director TUFC; Michael Pauley, KUB; and Cady Greenslit, AmeriCorps temp with Parks and Recreation.

**Action Items for February**

- January minutes were reviewed and approved.

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- 2018 Tree planting contract expires in March. Planting is still in progress, and so is the inspection process.
- Structural pruning of trees has begun. This process should be finished by the end of February.
- The landscaping portion of the Central Avenue project will be going out for bid soon.
- Proper mulching of trees is still a challenge that Kasey is working with Horticulture and others on.
- Kasey began a discussion about developing an Urban Forestry Master Plan for Knoxville. Trees Knoxville is in support of this idea to developing a plan and looking into getting input from several groups. The Pittsburg UFMP is the inspiration for this plan.

**Education & KUB Report** by Nick Bridgeman

- A Right Tree - Right Place meeting will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Public Works Complex at 6:30 p.m.
- The application for a booth at the Neighborhood Conference in May has been sent in. Nick will give us more information as the event approaches.
- Educational events that the Board is scheduled to participate in are: Waterfest, Earthfest, Keep Knoxville Beautiful Education Day, and the 2019 Neighborhood Conference.
- KUB has finished working in the Park City area, and is now moving into Broad Acres in Powell, and the Blaine area.
- Ash tree issues with the Emerald Ash Borer area seeing a decline. This is most likely related to removal of damaged/infected trees, and treatment.

**Trees Knoxville Report** by Tom Welborn

- Completed Graduate Training Class on February 4<sup>th</sup> and had 27 students register.
- Eight applicants were interviewed for the Project Manager position. They are in process of making an offer to one of the candidates.

- Tom will be meeting with the ISA committee on January 17<sup>th</sup> to continue preparation for the International Conference to be held August 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> in Knoxville. We will need to recruit volunteers and working with Visit Knoxville to staff events.
- There will be a meeting with South Knoxville Elementary on January 24<sup>th</sup> to plan tree planting, coordinated with KUB and City on placement of trees.
- A Streetscape is planned for Sevier Avenue which may impact species selection. The plan is to use some of trees from gravel bed.
- Held tree giveaway on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 142 families sign in and we gave away over 400 trees. 10 volunteers help with giveaway.
- Met with the Canopy Committee on January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss an approach to setting future goals for Knoxville and Knox County Urban Forestry Management program.
- February 5<sup>th</sup> provided training to UT students on identifying common TN trees in a course being conducted by UT gardens.
- Another Volunteer Forestry Program will begin on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Upcoming Trees Knoxville events:**

- February 16<sup>th</sup> - TAEP tree planting on Burwell Ave at 9 a.m. until noon.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> - Tree Walk at Sequoyah Park & Pint Night at Bearden Beer Market 5 to 7pm
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Victor Ashe Park tree planting 9 a.m. until noon.
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 250K tree giveaway – KBGA.
- March 16<sup>th</sup> - Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum native tree planting.
- April 24<sup>th</sup> - at the Public Service Complex Morris Ave and 3 following Wednesdays Volunteer Forester Training 6 p.m. until 9p.m.

#### **Ex-Officio Reports**

- Ben Nanny reported that the 2019 Weed Wrangle will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. until Noon. This is a county wide pull event to remove invasive plants. The six sites that have been selected for this year include Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville Botanical Gardens, Collier Preserve, Baker Creek, Sam Duff Field, and Lakeshore Park. Visit [ijams.org](http://ijams.org) to register.
- Diane Warwick reported that Rocky Top and Fairview are Tennessee's newest Tree City USAs. Norris will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Tree City anniversary.

#### **2019 Committee Assignments**

- Education Committee: Nick Bridgeman, Chair. Anna Toon, Arbor Day. Board members are Dale Madden, Tom Welborn, Nick St. Sauveur, and Dan Steinhoff. Ex-officio members are Ben Nanny, Kasey Krouse, and David Vandergriff.
- Policy and Planning: Tom Welborn, Chair. Board members are Dale Madden, Craig Walker, and Jenny Arthur. Ex-officio members are Liz Albertson, Tim Hester and Kasey Krouse.
- Nominating Committee: Committee will be filled as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.