

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

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The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:31 am. Other board members present were Bob Graves, Charles Kwit, Gordon Coker, Jessie Hillman, Kelsey Jones, Jessica Rodocker, and Kayla Stuart.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, Diane Warwick, Tim Hester, and Ben Nanny. Guest Tom Welborn was also present.

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**Action Items for September**

- Motion to approve August minutes made by Charles Kwit and seconded by Jessica Rodocker. The motion passed.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

- Sophie Carter is the new Americorps member working alongside Kasey and Urban Forestry crews. She graduated from UT's Forestry program.
- There is a planned tree walk on Adair Park during the last week of September; Sophie will reach out to coordinate scheduling for speakers.
- The City has selected Walker Nursery as the vendor for purchasing plants; Kasey will be visiting Walker, along with other local nurseries, in McMinnville, TN, on September 14 to evaluate the conditions of their trees.
- The increase in installation costs through Patriot Lawn and Maintenance have increased 50% per tree (\$60 to \$90) This means the purchasing budget will not go as far as it has gone in previous years.
- Hazardous Trees on Private Property: Urban Forestry and the City's Legal department have developed a process to evaluate tree risks and notify homeowners. (Tree Risk Assessment Levels I-III)
- Kasey is eager for the results of the Knoxville Heat Mapping Campaign coordinated by UT and NOAA. He hopes their data can be combined with the canopy study to provide insight for the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- Regarding the large proposed developments along Cumberland Avenue, Kasey is in continuous talks with developers to minimize interference with the previous landscaping work performed during the Cumberland Avenue Streetscapes project completed in 2017.

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**Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn**

- Trees Knoxville has received 6 proposals for the UF Master Plan. The Selection Committee, headed by Tom, will meet on September 21 for selection.
- There was discussion about the Inflation Reduction Act and the planned \$1.5 billion allotted to the US Forest Service.
- Trees Knoxville is still working to expand its board.

- Sam Duff Park is in the process of becoming accredited as an arboretum through TUFC.

#### **Arbor Day Update with Jessica Rodocker**

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- Jessica met with Kasey and Debbie Sharp (COK Office of Neighborhood Empowerment) and selected trees to plant at Sam Duff.
- Jessica is determining how many kits to provide for expected attendees this year; difficult to determine quantity as it's not being held in a school like previous years.

#### **Ex-Officio Reports and Others**

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- Jessie Hillman (Knox Planning)  
Jeff Welch will become the Executive Director of Knoxville/Knox County Planning, replacing Amy Brooks.
- Lee Rumble (UT)  
Tree Walk at Knoxville Botanical Gardens on October 7 from 9 am – 12 pm, focusing on home tree and shrub care.
- Ben Nanny (Ijams)  
The liner of the front plaza pond at Ijams is being replaced; the river boardwalk is being reopened after being closed since 2019's flooding event.  
TEAM is working on obtaining their non-profit certifications.
- Diane Warwick (TN Dept of Forestry)  
Discussed the "Landmark, Historic, and Heritage Tree" recognition obtained through TUFC. Kasey added that if a tree is recognized, the City Ordinance will provide added protection for that tree.
- Kayla Stuart (TN Champion Trees)  
Searching for education volunteers for Party for the Planet, October 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 am.

#### **Upcoming Events**

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- September 11 at 5:30 pm, Twilight at Ijams
- October 2 at 1 pm, Party for the Planet at Frog Juice Kombucha
- October 6 at 8:30 am, Tree Board meeting at COK Public Works Service Center
- October 7 at 9 am, Tree Walk at Knoxville Botanical Gardens
- November 4 at 1 pm, Arbor Day at Sam Duff Park
- November 9-10, TN Urban Forestry Annual Conference at Montgomery Bell State Park
- November 10, Keep Knoxville Beautiful Annual Sustainability Summit