

KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:34 am. Other board members present were Gordon Coker, Charles Kwit, Kayla Stuart, Sylvia McLaurin, and Bob Graves

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Allison Kelly, Tim Hester, David McGinley, Diane Warwick, Ben Nanny, and Melanie Overall.

Action Items for July

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- Once quorum was reached, Dan motioned for minutes to be approved. All in favor, none opposed.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

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- Kasey reported the tree planting contractor dropped out. Going back out for bid.
 - One of his crew passed ISA, which makes 3 in Urban Forestry and 5 in the city. The City has an Arborist position open and hopes this employee will apply.
 - Has been a fairly quiet month with only a few storms. Calls are up 30% YTD from this time last year. Tim Hester is receiving a lot more calls as well. David McGinley reported permits are up 30% from this time last year.
 - Kasey has gone by North Hills Playground and tree preservation at Cumberland. Dan stated the treescapes are looking good.

Trees Knoxville Update with Allison Kelly (representing Dale)

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- Allison reported Trees Knoxville had booth at Open Streets on 6/4. Did not have a lot of foot traffic.
 - Tree Walk on 6/29 with Tom Welborn had about 20 participants.
 - Newsletter will go out tomorrow, if anyone has anything to add. Sophie will have tree tips, among other tree related items in the newsletter.
 - Applied for Challenge Grant and looking for other grants.
 - There will be a tree walk in July.
 - August 12th – Neighborhood Resources Fair
 - Tree planning map is on website. There is a new app for tree licensing.

Ex-Officio Reports and Others

- Gordon – Charles Kwit has the next article. Gordon had a neighborhood booth at Open Streets, with a tree walk and prizes. Sylvia agreed to be on the Education Committee. They had their first meeting last month via Zoom.
- Bob Graves – Steering Committee met 6/22. They took the data received and came up with goals and strategies to achieve – Quantity (more trees), Better (quality) and Access for 36 canopy goals. The goal is 40. They plan to see what the neighborhoods want. Public input summary report should be posted within the next week. Narrative and recommendations to be released in next couple of months. Steering and Advisory Committees release date goal for first of September. After publication, there will be an online form for public input for narrative and recommendations.
- Tim – Challenge Grant applications are being reviewed. Lakeshore Conservancy is planting a lot of trees at the moment. Kasey plans to swing by. Tim stated there are a lot of people in the parks and on the greenways.
- Diane – reviewed TAEP grants. There were 18 grantees and is working on contracts for signatures. Trees Knoxville was approved. Working on application for IRA grants that will be consistent for 13 states.
- Ben/Ijams – busy with 4 camps. The quarry is busy. Also working on grants. Kasey is asking about a Tree ID Program but Ben wasn't familiar with it. He will check to see who is doing the program.
- Dan asked about the infiltration areas. David said Suttree and UT are good.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 am.

Upcoming Events

- August 3rd – Tree Board meeting at PSD Community Room, 8:30 am.
- August 12th – Neighborhood Resources Fair