

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Tom Welborn at 8:30 am. Other board members present were Nick St. Sauveur, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, Charles Kwit, Diane Warwick, Jenny Arthur, Natalia Almonacid, Bob Graves, and Andrew Caylor.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Tim Hester, and David McGinley.

Visiting this month is Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville and Charles Batey.

Action Items for April

- Approve March Minutes: Bob Graves made a motion to approve, seconded by Nick St. Sauveur.

Education Update with Craig Walker

- Webinars are scheduled for April ("Riparian Restoration" presented Diane Warwick) and May (to be presented by Nick St. Sauveur)
- Tom Welborn suggested a topic for June: "How to Select a Tree Company"

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- The Volunteer Forestry program is halfway through. There are around 30 attendees this semester.
- Urban Forestry department now has two TRAQ (ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified) employees.
- There are plans in Market Square to install permanent lighting on trees. Kasey has checked tree health and talked about tree safety for these proposed lighting concepts.
- All of the Missouri gravel bed trees have been planted for this season, UF is currently re-stocking for next season. Urban Forestry is working with COK Engineering on Baker Creek project.
- Urban Forestry submitted a budget increase request for the cyclical pruning program; Kasey anticipates some of this work will be contracted out as trees become larger.
- The Tree Mitigation Bank has received its first funds. One application came from a cell tower install near West Town Mall and another for contractor error when trees were damaged at Harriett Tubman Park.
- KGIS is working to upload results of Canopy Assessment as layers so that the public can access. Kasey is working to develop a presentation to summarize the data of the Canopy Assessment within the city.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville has added two new board members.
- Tracie and Trees Knoxville conducted a tree giveaway at Dogwood Elementary, giving away 1,000 seedlings.
- Tom submitted a grant application in hopes to secure funding for planting in Mechanicsville.
- Tom conducted a walk-around for the Fourth and Gill neighborhood and their proposed arboretum.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Diane Warwick (TN Department of Forestry) is working on allocation of grant funds for invasive species.
- Dan Steinhoff (KBGA board member) to give guided walking tour at the Botanical Gardens on Sunday, April 11.
- Tim Hester (COK Parks and Rec) received full funding for east Knoxville greenway that will run through Harriett Tubman Park, Dr. Walter Hardy Park, and Knoxville Botanical Gardens. The route is not yet determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 am.