

MINUTES
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
DECEMBER 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:31 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Nick Bridgeman, Robert Graves, Anna Toon, and Tracy Polite-Johnson.

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

Visiting this month is Traci Hellwinckel and Joyce Feld, both with Trees Knoxville. Also included were Chad Weth and Rachel Butzler, both with Knoxville Public Service Department.

Action Items for December

- Approve November minutes.

Education Report by Craig Walker

- Craig appreciated the great turnout at the Arbor Day event. It was very successful.
- Tree Talk has been changed to December 14th. AmeriCorps members from Ijams will be speaking. Traci Hellwinckel will take care of publicity.
- Craig suggested that the Education Committee have a meeting to begin planning 2021 events.

City Update by Kasey Krouse

- The new trees are currently in a holding yard. Patriot Lawn will be planting the trees soon.
- There was a discussion on the Landscaping portion of the Tree Protection Ordinance and the Tree Mitigation Bank. Kasey sent out copies of the drafted amended changes to the Board and also made a visual presentation for the group. He talked us through the various changes and inclusions. This focuses more on redevelopment sites.
 - The term “ecosystem” will possibly be changed to “water shed” to benefit the public better, and improve air quality.
 - The Tree Bank portion will be going before City Council on December 15th for first reading. After much discussion, the Tree Board voted 6 to 1, with 1 abstaining, to present this to Council as written.
- Kasey also suggested that the Policy Committee meet in January concerning State Champion trees and Heritage trees. The concern is with the historical overlay, and one’s ability to pay to maintain one of these trees.

Trees Knoxville Report by Tom Welborn

- Tom talked about the Forest Service Urban Forest Inventory, and the opportunity for the Tree Board, and possibly the University of Tennessee to be a part of this.
- Tom participated in the Sustainable Urban Forestry Coalition listening session. There are quite a few national programs and bills to plant trees in urban areas. This may be beneficial for Knoxville.
- He also participated in the Partners of Community Forest Conference.
- Trees Knoxville is finishing up its annual report. More on this will be forthcoming in January.
- Tom and Kasey met with Legacy Park about the Collier Preserve to modify their planting plan to fit into the preserve.
- Kasey reported on the Dow Chemical planting. They are currently getting bids on site prep work.

Ex-officio Reports

- Ben Nanny reported that there were 500 volunteers for the River Rescue event. Over 25,000 pounds of trash was collected.
- Ijams Weed Wrangle will be done virtually in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.