

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
JULY 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:30 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Nick Bridgeman, Jenny Arthur, Daniel Steinhoff, Andrew Caylor, Tracy Polite-Johnson, Robert Graves, and Anna Toon.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; Lee Rumble, UT Ag Extension; and David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering; and Diane Warwick, State Forestry Division.

Visitors were Tracie Hellwinckel, Project Manager for Trees Knoxville.

**Action Items for July**

- Approve June minutes.

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey reported that the City did not get the TAEP grant this year, but we still have a \$50,000 planting budget to work with.
- Tree crews are still operating at full capacity, despite the ransom ware issues.
- Tree request have increased by 30%.
- Tree crews are moving ahead with watering schedules. There was plenty rain early on, so trees are doing well.
- Tree Ordinance work is ready to move ahead and look at issues such as illegal dumping by tree services cutting trees and leaving them for the City crews to remove.
  - Would like to hold tree services accountable for removal.
  - Would also like to bring language for Zoning Code and Tree Protection Ordinance together for clarity.

**Education Report & Arbor Day** by Craig Walker

- Craig will be reaching out to Tom and Lee, and whoever else wishes to discuss virtual activities.

**Trees Knoxville Report** by Tom Welborn

- Tom said they are working on the Canopy Assessment with Planet GEO. They've got things down to a few items. Hope this will be concluded by December 2020, but no later than February 2021. Getting funding is an issue.
- They began the Zoom Volunteer Forestry training, and Zoom tree talks with several speakers. Both have been going well.
- Asked by Legacy Park to meet with them to work on a buffer property with DOW Chemical. The work will be funded by a grant received from DOW. Will give more information as that progresses.

**Ex-officio Reports**

- Diane explained the TAEP awards, and how request were processed.
- Lee said the 2020 nursery tour will be cancelled until sometime in 2021.

**Other Reports and Comments**

- Dale and Tom updated the committee representatives.
- There was also discussion about a virtual Arbor Day, since there are no requirements that the activities take place in a school. Will wait for guidance from Tree City USA concerning certain requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.