

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:31 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Daniel Steinhoff, Bob Graves, Charles Kwit, Jenny Arthur, Craig Walker, and Natalia Almonacid.

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

Visiting this month is Tracie Hellwinkle with Trees Knoxville.

Action Items for June

- Approve May minutes: Jenny Arthur made a motion to approve, seconded by Tom Welborn.
- Vote on July meeting forum.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey explained how work orders are picking up to normal summertime numbers.
- The city applied for a TAEP grant again—applied but did not receive it last year. They are hoping to win the grant this year to help with more tree planting.
- Kasey did reach out to the Tree Board to get their support for the grant and was granted it.
- Diane Warwick explained that the TUFC will review and send out letters around August.
- Diane will follow-up with more exact dates for when the approval letter for the grant go out at the July meeting.
- Kasey gathered feedback on the Tree Protection Ordinance and has now passed on to law for final review.
- Once the ordinance has gone through final review with law, he will then send it to admin to add to the council agenda.
- Kasey asked the Tree Board to provide a letter of support to the council.
- Kasey added that it will most likely be July, possible as late as early August before the ordinance is presented to the council.
- The canopy study final draft is going into review.
- Kasey will provide copies to the Tree Board to review.
- Kasey also shared the beta of the KGIS draft with the canopy study data.
 - The map viewer will have down to a one-meter resolution.
 - He also explained how this data can be used showing for instance, where comparing the 2008 overlay to the 2014 new data shows a 1% increase in tree cover downtown (especially around waterfront parks and railroad corridors).
- Kasey stated the interface will be available to the public soon.

- He also stated how this data can be used to help coordinate and strategize where to plant or protect trees.
- Kasey is looking into a software that helps prioritize planting based on multiple different factors—similar to the Tree Inventory.
- Kasey will let the Tree Board know when the viewer is ready for the public.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Tom Welborn explained how Trees Knoxville isn't very busy right now.
- They are working on grants—of which there is a lot of legwork to work through in order to apply.
- They've applied for several grants already; including the TAEP grant and the Dow grant just in June.
- Trees Knoxville is also working with the TN Rivers Network for a grant.
- Kasey mentioned that the city will commit some resources to help grind stumps for the Citizens' Cemetery.

Education Update with Craig Walker

- The "How Trees Reproduce" webinar presented by Nick St. Sauveur had a decent turnout with about 14 people present.
- There is one more webinar scheduled for June with Kasey Krouse "How to Select a Tree Professional" on June 21st at 5:30 pm.
- Trees Knoxville provides the biggest number of participants.
- Craig has been sending the webinar information to tv station website calendars, neighborhood newspapers, and his social media. He also encouraged board members to share the webinar information across their own social media as well.
- Tracie Hellwinkle stated that the webinar had 25 responses but only half showed up.
- Dale asked Tracie to find a way to determine how many new participants have shown up for each webinar.

July Forum Discussion

- Kasey asked if the board would like to start in person meetings again as the Community Room restrictions at the Public Works Service Center were lifted to 25 members.
- Dale Madden put it up to a vote. No objections were made.
- Starting at the July 1st meeting the Tree Board will meet in person at the Public Works Service Center.
- Tom Welborn asked that the board hold an in-person discussion of the committee assignments at the July 1st meeting as well—as the committees will start to be more active soon.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Diane Warwick stated they are wrapping up the last round of the TAEP grants.

- The deadline for applications for next year's grants is in the beginning of November 2021.
- The application for the state coordinator position has been posted and will be housed in TUFC.
- Ashley Kite and Diane will be part time partnership coordinators on a more regional level rather than state.
- Diane asked Kasey if he would still be willing to do presentations about the canopy study at three regional conferences this year, most likely in October 2021. Kasey was open to it.
- Tim state that Parks & Rec is rather busy for this time of year, even more so because of Covid-19 with people wanting to be out in nature more.
- Parks & Rec have high Traffic and maintenance requests especially.
- They are delayed on the construction project in North Knoxville due to utility issues with KUB.
- Those utility issues should be resolved this month and construction will resume in early July.
- Tim Hester also stated that Parks & Rec sponsors Challenge Grants that are fairly easy to qualify for.
 - Matching grant up to 2500
 - Must be public land with public access and in city limits
 - Applications are due at the end of June 2021.
 - The application is available on the city website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 am.

Upcoming Events

- "How to Select a Tree Professional" webinar by Kasey Krouse on June 21st at 5:30 pm.
- July 3rd meeting in person at the Public Works Service Center at 8:30 am.

Relevant Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdxForAhMT8> The recorded webinar from May with Nick St. Sauveur.
- https://knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/parks_and_recreation/recreation_challenge_grant Challenge grant information and application from Parks and Recreation.