

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:32 am. Other board members present were Charles Holland Jr., Gordon Coker, Bob Graves, Jessica Rodocker, Kelsey Jones, Natalia Almonacid, and Charles Batey.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Diane Warwick, Jessie Hillman, and Lee Rumble.

Visitors this week were Cara Sullivan, Tracie Hellwinckel with Tree Knoxville, and Saylor White.

Action Items for February

- Approve February Minutes: Bob Graves made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Jessica Rodocker.
- Review changes suggested from February meeting and approve the updated By-Laws.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Almost all planned tree plantings are finished.
 - The 3 year planting contract is up for bid this year and a big is going up for a new nursery and installer.
- Urban Forestry has had a couple projects in conjunction with Trees Knoxville.
 - The Forest Avenue planting went well.
 - Around 50 volunteers in total with 7-8 being volunteer foresters.
 - A total of 40 trees were planted around the block.
- Urban Forestry got a new knuckleboom and are working on catching-up on general brush pickup.
- On the Central Avenue street scape, several trees have died so Urban Forestry is working on replacing them, with several already replaced.
- Kasey and his crew are working with the new baseball stadium on tree loss mitigation.
- Kasey will be requesting \$40,000 for the Master Plan from the City-Council this year.
 - Kasey asked that the Tree Board offer support to this proposal through a letter to the City-Council.
 - Bob Graves volunteered to head that up and Jessica Rodocker offered to assist.
- Kasey is working with Trees Knoxville to put together a request for proposals.
 - Once the master plan is funded, the requests for proposals would be sent out to different consultants to help develop the plan.
 - Kasey suggested forming a committee to review the proposals and to eventually choose the consultant to form the master plan.

- Kelsey Jones, Natalia Almonacid, Jessie Hillman, Jessica Rodocker, Bob Graves, and Dan Steinhoff volunteered to be on this committee with Bob as chair.
- Kasey also reached out to the TUFC for help with funding this plan and met with Diane Warwick, Robert Hoover, and Robert Elliot where they offered a possible matching grant.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tracie Hellwinckel

- The tree planting 02/26 of 40 trees on Forest Avenue went well.
- A tree planting is planned for this weekend on 03/05 at West Hills Elementary in addition to the Weed Wrangle with l jams at Goose Creek.
- On 3/12 will be Trees Knoxville's 12th giveaway with 165 trees to giveaway.
 - This giveaway is locked to Knox County residents.
 - There will be \$10 raffle tickets to win a big Dogwood tree.
- On 3/26, a tree planting at Goose Creek to follow-up from the Weed Wrangle is planned.
 - It will be a live planting with about 100 trees.
- A final planting is planned 4/2 at West Valley Middle School with 8-10 trees.
 - This is the same day as the Neighborhood Conference.

Education Update with Charles Batey

- Charles Batey has been working with Debbie Sharp from the Office of Neighborhoods to get a brief paragraph about a topic from last month's tree board meeting published in the neighborhood's newspaper.
- Charles plans to provide a topic each month but would appreciate feedback/suggestions from other board members.
- Bob Graves suggested a video series to be published highlighting local trees from Kasey's Tree List on the Urban Forestry website.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Lee Rumble
 - On March 11th, will be hosting the Grounds Management Short Course in Chattanooga.
- Diane Warwick
 - Tomorrow 3/4 is Tennessee's stat Arbor Day (the first Friday in March) with 6 or 7 cities celebrating.
 - National Arbor Day is 4/30.
 - TUFC is helping Mufreesboro with funding for a canopy study.
 - The state is getting more requests for funding for these canopy studies.
- Jessie Hillman

- Knox County is launching their comprehensive plan.
- They are looking for community engagement on 3/27-3/30 with several virtual and in person meetings.
- They have 5 consultants on the team.
- Public input can also be given through advanceknox.org which is maintained by Knoxville-Knox Planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Upcoming Events

- On March 5th, Weed Wrangle at Goose Creek and tree planting at West Hills Elementary School.
- On March 11th, Grounds Maintenance Management Short Course in Chattanooga with Lee Rumble.
- On March 12th, Trees Knoxville 12th tree giveaway.
- On March 26th, a tree planting at Goose Creek with Trees Knoxville.
- On April 2nd, a tree planting at West Valley Middle School with Trees Knoxville and the Neighborhood Conference.
- On April 7th, Tree Board meeting at 8:30 am at the Public Works Service Center at 3131 Morris Avenue.