

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2022**

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The meeting was called to order at 8:33 am by Dan Steinhoff. Other board members present were Charles Kwit, Kayla Stuart, Gordon Coker, Jessica Rodocker, Charles Batey, Natalia Almonacid, and Kelsey Jones.

Ex-Officio members present were Diane Warwick, Kasey Krouse, Tim Hester, Lee Rumble, and Randall Whitehead (subbing in for David McGinley).

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

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**Action Items for April**

- Approve March Minutes: Dan Steinhoff made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Jessica Rodocker.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

- Invites for the East Tennessee Forest Summit on April 26<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 2 pm are open.
  - Robert Elliot will be preset.
  - Dale Madden will be doing a tree walk tour,
  - Lunch will be provided.
- The Mayor's Luncheon will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> – invites to the Tree Board have been sent out.
  - The proposed budget will be announced- including any potential funding for the master plan.
- Cara Sullivan has been assisting Kasey Krouse with developing a list of local tree suppliers, including a list of nurseries that retail local trees.
- Urban Forestry has been receiving a large number of calls about pruning—specially pruning in street right-of-ways.
  - Some concerns have been raised about the way some companies are pruning trees to clear their lines.
  - Utility lines follow ANSC standards but communication lines often do not. Kasey has discussed this with a few of these companies but the City is limited on what they can do from a legal standpoint.

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**Trees Knoxville Update with Tracie Hellwinckel**

- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Trees Knoxville helped Ijams with their Weed Wrangle and later in the day did a school tree planting at West Hills Elementary with 8 trees.
- On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Trees Knoxville held a tree giveaway of about 165 trees.
  - Due to snow, they had a handful of trees that were not picked up so they gave some away to local schools.

- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Trees Knoxville did a live staking at Goose Creek with the Shade Your Stream grant.
  - Unfortunately, about 2/3rds of the plantings were destroyed when they were checked on the following week.
  - The local community group has requested the police patrol the area to help prevent further destruction.
- On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Trees Knoxville had a table at the Office of Neighborhoods conference and held a tree planting at West Valley Middle School with about 31 volunteers.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Neighborhood Advisory Board meeting that Trees Knoxville will be at (Charles Batey will be there for the Tree Board).
- On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Trees Knoxville will have a table at the Spring Fling at Dogwood Elementary to give away the last of the trees from the March 12<sup>th</sup> giveaway.

#### **Education Update with Charles Batey**

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- Charles has continued to reach out to the Office of Neighborhoods on behalf of the Tree Board for sending out small info spots.
  - Gordon Coker wrote the piece for March about crape murder.
  - Charles encouraged other members to reach out him with any topics for the newsletter.
- Charles will be at the Neighborhoods Advisory Council meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A suggestion was made to compile a list of topics that could be cycled yearly as a reminder as there would likely be no need to rewrite the same information each year.

#### **Ex-Officio Reports**

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- Tim Hester
  - Outdoor programming is beginning to accelerate with Parks and Rec.
  - Parks and Rec has launched a greenway ambassador program through the Greenways Commissions.
    - Volunteers would sign up to spend time on the greenways to relay observations about the conditions of the greenways—such as leaning trees, trash issues, etc. as well as helping remind others of general greenway etiquette.
    - Volunteers can sign up of the city website. They will receive a name badge and reports can be made online.
  - The new section of greenway connecting Victor Ashe Park to Western Avenue is opening at the end of the month.
    - This section is very bare now but there are plans to plant next season.
  - Most of their work orders are reactive right now with over 120 miles of paved greenways to maintain.
    - People can use 311 to report any issues (this helps keep a log of calls) in addition to the online form.

- Randall Whitehead (subbing for David McGinley)
  - Development is full steam ahead with lots of small projects around the new stadium involving the Old City streetscapes.
    - The City is anticipating extra funding for water quality and infrastructure and Engineering is looking at allocating this funding now.
    - Much of the improving the old storm infrastructure can be paired with new green infrastructure work.
  - Morningside Parks has noted erosion issues that are on the list to be fixed.
- Lee Rumble
  - The Short Course in Chattanooga went well with 7 speakers and around 30 participants.
  - UT is possibly going to let go of several specialists. Those within the UT Extension program (across 95 counties) often rely on these specialists when they themselves do not have the answer.
  - Lee encouraged the Tree Board to write an email to the direct supervisor or dean of these programs these specialists are under explaining how they have aided the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

### **Upcoming Events**

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- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, Neighborhood Advisory Board meeting.
- On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Spring Fling at Dogwood Elementary tree giveaway.
- On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Tree Board meeting at 8:30 am at the Public Works Service Center at 3131 Morris Avenue.