

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:36 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Natalia Almonacid, Jenny Arthur, Robert Graves, and Charles Kwit.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Tim Hester, and Lee Rumble.

Visiting this month is Kelsey Jones from Americorp.

Action Items for July

- Approve June and July minutes: Tom Welborn made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Dale Madden.
- Discuss and Vote on Committee Assignments: Postponed to September meeting.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey stated that he will start nursery visits in mid-September.
- \$15,000 in the tree bank though not all is for this year as some projects came in after the deadline.
- A full report will be put together at the end of the year to be presented to the Tree Board.
- The Ordinance was submitted but was postponed from being presented last week. This way Chad Weth and Kasey will have time to reach out to each individual council member to garner their support.
 - The Ordinance is now scheduled to be presented in front of the council on Tuesday, August 24th.
 - Kasey asked that either Dale Madden or Tom Welborn go as representatives of the Tree Board. He will also be asking some local tree companies to come and provide support.
- There is potential for a mitigation bank in the Sevier Highway corridor. Knox County is in discussion with the City of Knoxville to develop the mitigation bank for losses in that area.
- The Tree Canopy Assessment was presented to Mayor Kincannon.
 - Trees Knoxville put together a comprehensive tree report totaling about 70 pages.
 - It encompasses both City and County. Kasey and Kelsey Jones put together an executive summary for the City of Knoxville.
 - The executive summary presents the findings from the Canopy assessment and the overall benefits of trees in environmental/social/ and economic impacts.
 - Overall the summary showed lots of potential in the city and Mayor Kincannon responded positively.
 - Goal is to take this information to create a master plan for the City of Knoxville.

- A guide for the next 10-50 years for how we perceive trees, where to look for planting, where to look for maintenance, and an overall goal cover.
- This is a \$75,000 investment that could ideally be updated every 4-5 years.
- The update is largely influenced by how often the Department of Agriculture is able to get updated NAR data (which is currently every 2-3 years).
- The biggest canopy loss was on residential property. Suggestions were made to look at increasing general tree care education and/or offering tree grants to help people replace old trees that have died with new trees.
- Other interesting notes from the assessment is that over 10 years (2008-2018) the City of Knoxville has seen a general 1% loss in canopy which is equivalent to about 554 football fields.
- The canopy loss equates to about \$115,000 loss of annual benefits.
- Overall the management plan is mostly accomplished with some of the later parts actively being worked on. The master plan is the next step forward.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville sent out a copy of the data to all their contributors.
- Feedback from the Canopy Assessment is mostly positive.
- TVA is interested in moving forward and they haven't heard any feedback from the County yet.
- County needs to be involved in the discussion of the master plan due to school grounds and parks.
- Ideally want to get neighborhoods and communities involved in the discussion of the master plan as to what exactly they would like to see.
- Trees Knoxville will look into sharing the data with UT as well. Would help be the foundation for several potential projects.
- Planet Geo (who also helped fund the assessment) is interested in featuring Knoxville on their website.
- Trees Knoxville is not planning to continue funding PlantIt Geo on the canopy assessment at this point in time.
- Volunteer Forester Level 1 is scheduled for October 13th 6-9 pm. Will attempt to keep in person but will be flexible

Education Update with Craig Walker

- For the Arbor Day event, the plan is still to hold it in a park. Craig Walker was going to try and get the Arbor Day committee together to lock down on a park and getting the word out.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Lee Rumble:
 - There is a disease that is plaguing Crepe Myrtle trees in the area.
 - Door flyers have been spread through West Knoxville about the disease.
 - It has moved to North Knoxville but is easily managed.

- Early Spring treatment is the most effective.
- Dr. Grant is working on this issue—it may be on UT campus now.
- Lee will be giving a presentation on summer tree care on Monday, August 16 at 5:30 pm.

Committee Assignment Discussion

- Committee Assignments tabled again until the September meeting.
- There was some discussion over whether Tree Board members are term limited in the code.
- Currently, term limits were applied by the last Mayor—Mayor Rogero—and Mayor Kincannon does have the option to reappoint members to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- “Basic Tree Maintenance” webinar presentation by Lee Rumble on Monday, August 16 at 5:30 p.m.
- September 2nd meeting on Zoom at 8:30 am.

Relevant Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvlaoLh8yCI> “Summer Tree Care” with Lee Rumble.
- https://knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/public_service/urban_forestry/canopy_assessment 2021 Canopy Assessment Report, Executive Summary, and GIS viewer.
- [Quantifying The Greenness of Global Cities | HUGSI](#) City canopy rankings.