

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:30 am. Other board member present were Robert Graves, Jenny Arthur, Nick Bridgeman, Daniel Steinhoff, Charles Kwit, and Tom Welborn.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Tim Hester, David McGinley, Lee Rumble, Jeanne Stevens, and Ben Nanny.

Visiting this month Cara Sullivan and Tracie Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville.

Action Items for December

- Approve November minutes: Charles Kwit made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Tom Welborn.
- Confirm new chair and vice-chair nominations for the Tree Board.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Arbor Day event went well.
 - Planted 5 trees with good weather.
 - The West Hills Elementary 5th grade leadership came out to assist with the planting.
 - This is the first time the Mayor has been present at Arbor Day 2 years in a row.
- The Tree Protection Ordinance passed its first reading on Tuesday, November 30th.
 - Charles Batey and Nick St. Saveur were present to offer support for the Tree Ordinance at the council meeting this past Tuesday.
 - There were no large questions presented regarding the new Tree Protection Ordinance.
 - They changed the ordinance administration to Urban Forestry and adjusted the historical tree clause so certain designation protections apply based on meeting the state's determination of a historical tree.
 - The Tree Protection Ordinance also changes the language of brush pickup, while also allowing the City to go after the tree company rather than the property owner for illegal dumping.
 - The ordinance also provides an avenue for tree companies to get registered with the City. There is no fee to register and it's a simple agreement to not dump brush on the side of the road.
 - Codes Enforcement will be the one to issue orders.
 - Restrictions on brush removal should not negatively affect City brush removal.
 - The 2nd reading will be the 1st council meeting for December on Tuesday, December 14th.

- Urban Forestry has received shipments of over 500 trees with planting starting next week and going until March 1st.
- Kasey finished fire prevention training that was hosted by the ISA chapter in Texas.
 - This provided some resources to help property owners reduce fire risk.
- Kasey also attended the Louisville conference where talk was held about issues with staff shortages in urban forestry departments, how climate change is affecting trees particularly in urban areas, and the Infrastructure Bill including how funds are shifting to municipalities.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Tom Welborn is stepping down as co-chair from both the City Tree Board and the Trees Knoxville Board.
 - Trees Knoxville held a board meeting, approving new members including Dale Madden and approving goals and budget for 2022.
 - The goals and budget are similar to 2021 though Trees Knoxville will be moving into developing a master plan from the canopy assessment.
 - They had a total of about \$27,000 in donations with some being specified for specific projects.
- Trees Knoxville will host a tree walk on December 16th at 6pm meeting at the Christmas tree on Gay Street. Kasey will lead the walk.
- Volunteer Forester 2 classes will begin in January on January 12th followed by meetings on 01/19, 01/26, and the final meeting on 02/02.
- Tracie with Trees Knoxville is looking to recruit more people to take on a class to help teach with Kasey.
- There is a planting planned at Mary Vestal park on January 15th from 9 am to 12 pm/

Board Nomination Discussion

- 6 tree board members are rolling over into the new year. Chair and Vice-chair for the board need to be nominated and voted on.
 - Daniel Steinhoff and Robert Graves expressed interest in the leadership positions.
 - Tom Welborn nominated Dan Steinhoff for Chair and Bob Graves for Vice-Chair.
 - Jenny Arthur seconded the nominations and they both accepted.
 - Both Dan and Bob received unanimous votes to approve the nominations.
 - Kasey will meet with both Dan and Bob to go over their new responsibilities before the next board meeting.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Lee Rumble
 - UT is working on end of year admin tasks and developing plans for the upcoming year.
 - Grounds Management conference is set to occur in person at UT on January 20th and 21st. Registration for this event is open.
- Ben Nanny
 - Ijams is wrapping up 2021.
 - Working on clearing out more acreage (Charles Kwit sent some student volunteer students to assist in clearing about 2 acres).
 - Ijams has added acreage around the Grayson Subara Preserve.
 - They are wrapping up plantings for this year.
 - The Weed Warriors assisted off site at the Citizen Cemetery with a work day in Nov focusing on vines climbing trees.
 - Ijams is selecting sites for River Rescue on March 12th, 2022.
 - Also looking for sites for the Weed Wrangle (working with Trees Knoxville to locate a prime location) which will ideally be in February.
- Jeanne Stevens
 - Planning is working on the corridor for Alcoa Hwy.
 - Certain sections are coming to a close and ready for redevelopment.
 - Citizen comments have asked for a focus on the landscaping as properties develop.
 - Urban Forestry will be helping with key point landscaping and beautification on those properties owned by the City of Knoxville.
 - Large sections of maintenance will fall on TDOT and the neighborhoods to take care of.
- Nick Bridgeman
 - KUB is slated to work in some neighborhoods along the Alcoa Hwy corridor.
 - They have almost finished up working in Holston Hills.
 - KUB should have more reliability during storms in the future.
 - Sequoyah Hills and Westland area are going well/finishing up. KUB will be moving into West Hills and Fountain City areas soon in the next couple of months.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am.

Upcoming Events

- 2nd reading of the Tree Protection Ordinance at the City Council meeting on December 14th at 6 pm.
- Tree Walk with Trees Knoxville on December 16th at 6 pm meeting at the Christmas Tree on Gay Street.

- Knoxville Tree Board meeting January 6th at 8:30 am at the Public Works Building.
- Volunteer Forester 2 classes start on January 12th with Trees Knoxville.
- Grounds Management Conference at UT on January 20th and 21st.