

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

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The meeting was called to order by Daniel Steinhoff at 8:30 am. Other board members present were Robert Graves, Charles Batey, Kelsey Jones, Kayla Stuart, Charles Kwit, Gordon Coker, and Jessica Rodocker.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Lee Rumble, Ben Nanny, Liz Albertson and Jessie Hillman (from Knoxville-Knox County Planning), David McGinley, and Tim Hester.

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

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**Action Items for February**

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- Approve January minutes: Robert Graves made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Charles Kwit.
- Review the updated By-Laws.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

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- Kasey has submitted a request for funds for the Urban Forestry master plan.
  - The plan is to be developed with Trees Knoxville.
  - If the plan gets funded, the Tree Board will need to solicit a committee to review individuals and consultants that come forward with proposals.
  - The Canopy Assessment will be the main data used for the 20 year master plan as it demonstrated the areas that need improvement and that the majority of lost tree cover is in residential areas.
  - Once financed, Kasey wants to get the master plan rolling.
  - Kasey also talked with the state to partner with Urban Forestry.
- The planting contract is moving along.
  - They just invoiced 250 out of 450 trees.
  - When all is said is done, they will have planted 550.
  - Kasey is working with Cara Sullivan on the tree quality control.
- There is a big project going on at Lakeshore Park.
  - They are removing a large number of dying/dead trees.
  - Tim Hester stated that they have removed the ballfields and are working on excavation between the trail and the roadway where the boat launch is.
  - There will be new outdoor space at the old ballfields. The Northshore entrance is going to be widened.
  - The Lakeshore Park Committee is making every effort to replace as many trees as possible that they are taking down.
  - The committee also plans to apply for arboretum once this update project is done.

- Lakeshore Park is unique in being managed by the Lakeshore Park Foundation.
- They are partnered with the City and are self-funded.
- This project is funded with \$35 million for this project.
- The downtown south and west areas have been wrapped up.
  - It's the first replicated area they have done pruning in.
  - They started cyclical pruning work 6 years ago, so improvements should start to be shown from the last pruning.
  - In 2021, there were 360 tree removals, over 5000 trees were topped or pruned, 300+ tree emergencies, and over 1000 inspections.

### **Trees Knoxville Update with Tracie Hellwinckel**

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- Trees Knoxville accomplished the goals set forth in January's meeting.
  - 20 trees were planted in Mary Vestal Park for the Challenge Grant.
  - Volunteer Forester classes finished up with 15 graduates.
  - The Tree Walk had 25 people show up.
  - Weed wrangle is set.
- On 02/26 40 street trees will be planted in Fort Sanders as part of the TAPE grant—they need volunteers for this event.
- On 3/5 Weed Wrangle is looking to also plant at a school after the other locations are completed—they will need about 15 volunteers.
- On 3/12, a tree giveaway is planned for about 65 one-gallon trees. Trees Knoxville is asking for people to register to get these trees and they will require those registrants to be Knox County residents.
  - Tracie asked if the board could have a table at the giveaway with information of how to plant the tree before selecting their tree.
  - Tracie suggested the Tree Board could also get the information about the updated By-Laws and the Tree Protection Ordinance out to the public through Trees Knoxville events.

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

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- Charles wants the education that the Tree Board puts out to be less general education and more specific to the Knoxville area.
- Charles has been in talks with Tracie Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville and Debbie Sharp with Neighborhoods in regards to helping Tree Board education outreach.
- Charles suggested that the Tree Board push out more bite-sized information. Debbie is willing to publish some small content on a monthly basis if the Tree Board wants.
  - The tree list from Urban Forestry could be broken in several bite-size pieces of content to help introduce people to the local trees.
- Jessica Rodocker suggested looking into a partnership with Dogwood Arts.
  - The Tree Board could help to educate the public on how to plant and where to plant Dogwoods.

- This would be a good opportunity to get more exposure of what the Tree Board does.
- Jessica offered to pass on a Dogwood Arts contact to Charles Batey for him to reach out to.
- Charles will develop a plan for video content to be ideally pushed out every other month to be presented at the March meeting.

#### **TUFC Retreat with Charles Batey**

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- Charles Batey is a member of the board for the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council.
- The TUFC retreat introduced Robert Elliot as the state Urban Forestry Coordinator.
- The TUFC is looking to be more supportive outside of just being a resource.
- They are moving to focus on helping with arboretum registration/historic tree registration/ and other structural level programs for education.
- TUFC held their retreat this year for the first time in around 2 years.
- They plan to hold the annual conference again and are looking for ways to make it more accessible/more desirable for people who are not industry professionals.
  - They are considering doing 3 small conferences for each region instead of one large conference in Nashville for this reason.
- They also provide an online Tree Board education site called TreeboardU that members can visit and utilize.

#### **By-Laws**

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- Updated the Tree Board By-Laws to reflect the updated Tree Protection Ordinance.
- The purpose and intent and the organization sections were pulled from the ordinance.
- Under meetings- the wording was changed from 2/3 of the voting members present to 1/2 of the voting members present for quorum to approve but maintained the 2/3 of the voting members present for the larger changes.
- The policy and planning committees are now one committee.
- Parks and Recreation was added as an official board member.
- Changed MPC to Knoxville-Knox County Planning.
- The Tree Board will review the changes and vote to approve them at next month's meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

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- Tim Hester
  - The construction in the greenway connector is continuing nicely.
  - Had to remove several trees for ADA compliance but plan to plant trees to replace those removed where possible.
  - Not sure if they will be able to do so this planting season but will likely be next planting season.

- They did try to contact neighbors about the tree removal even though they are on city property.
- Charles Batey asked if Tim could write up a small 2 paragraphs about this project to be sent out to the Neighborhoods by Debbie Sharp.
- Lee Rumble
  - The Grounds Management Short Course was in person and went well.
    - It was a 2-day conference at the UT conference center.
    - They had 129 attendees total with about 96 per day.
    - They awarded 1000 Continuing Education Credits.
    - This is a big helper with commercial landscapers.
  - Lee is going to be hosting a smaller grounds management conference in Chattanooga for 1 day.
- Ben Nanny
  - Ijams is gearing up for Weed Wrangle that will be March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am. – 12:30 pm.
    - They have 6 sites set—Mary Vestal Park, West High School, William Hasey, Knoxville Botanical, and Ijams.
    - 3 of the sites are already full of volunteers. Registration is going live later this afternoon.
    - Need around 30-35 volunteers for the other 3 sites that are not full.
- Liz Albertson and Jessie Hillman
  - The county is getting ready to update the comp and transportation plan.
    - This is a big undertaking with lots of public engagement.
    - Last update was 20 years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

## **Upcoming Events**

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- On February 26<sup>th</sup>, planting of 40 street trees in Fort Sanders with Trees Knoxville.
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tree Board meeting at the Public Works Service Center at 8:30 a.m.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Weed Wrangle with Ijams Nature Park 9:30 am – 12:30 pm across 6 sites.
- On March 12<sup>th</sup>, 65 on-gallon tree giveaway with Trees Knoxville.