

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:32 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Daniel Steinhoff, Craig Walker, Nick St. Sauveur, Andrew Caylor, Bob Graves, Nick Bridgeman, Charles Kwit, and Natalia Almonacid.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Tim Hester, and Ben Nanny.

Visiting this month is Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville, Randall Whitehead, and Charles Batey.

Action Items for March

- Approve February Minutes: Tom Welborn made a motion to approve, seconded by Bob Graves.

Education Update with Craig Walker

- Craig is working on an interactive map for the driving tree tour; please provide feedback by March 31. Plans to finalize the driving tour in April.
- Potential ideas include collaborating with Knoxville neighborhoods, breaking tour into sub-routes for biking, and posting tree tour online at various sites (Visit Knoxville, Trees Knoxville, Tree Board site, etc.)

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey met with manager of the federal property at Cumberland, Locust, and Church. The building manager said they are planning on preserving the trees.
- City of Knoxville Urban Forestry planting contract has been approved. Hopes to restock Missouri gravel bed trees and replace pear trees on Peters Rd. The pear tree stumps have been left high, as there are plans to extract them. There are still several trees left to be replaced on Central Ave. as part of the contract.
- The Tree Mitigation Bank and updated Public Tree Permit applications have been posted online.
- Kasey has 3 employees that will be trained to do tree risk assessments.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville has received results from Canopy Update from Planet Geo. Tom showed and discussed with the board a few key slides from the results. The slides highlighted which sections of Knoxville and Knox County have experienced canopy growth or canopy loss.
- Kasey encouraged Tree Board to think of statistics/information you'd like to see regarding the data.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Ben Nanny (Ijams) kicked off Weed Wrangle at this weekend and it continues through the month of March. River Rescue will occur March 26. Please sign up if you're interested in volunteering for either event.
- Randall Whitehead (COK Engineering) talked about projects continuing in South Knoxville and along Sevier Ave.

- Tim Hester (COK Parks and Rec) talked about greenway developments in South Knoxville. Phase 1 of Northwest Connector project to begin this month. The busy season for Parks and Rec begins soon as the weather warms up.
- Nick Bridgeman (KUB) said that circuit maintenance is currently active in Fountain City, Halls, Western Ave, Middlebrook, Pleasant Ridge. Upcoming work later this year will be in West Hills/ West High School area. Plans to work with Craig and the Education Committee to discuss non-profit work performed by KUB.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

Upcoming Events

- Trees Knoxville Tree Tour
- Tennessee State Arbor Day: Friday, March 5
- Tennessee Tree Day: Saturday, March 20
- COK Office of Neighborhood Empowerment Conference: Saturday, March 27