

**KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 6, 2021**

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The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:35 am. Other board members present were Nick St. Sauveur, Craig Walker, Daniel Steinhoff, Charles Kwit, Jenny Arthur, Nick Bridgeman, and Natalia Almonacid.

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

Visiting this month is Ashley Kite with Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and Traci Hellwinckel with Trees Knoxville.

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**Action Items for May**

- Approve April Minutes: Dale Madden made a motion to approve, seconded by Tom Welborn.
- Confirm Committee Assignments for June meeting.
- Review Tree Protection Ordinance and present changes to Kasey for June meeting.

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**Guest Speaker: Ashley Kite**

- Shared a PowerPoint Presentation about the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and the changes they have recently undergone.
  - Including changing both their mission statement and their vision to better optimize their effectiveness in reaching communities across the state.
- Goal is to let communities lead while TUFC provides resources and information to start and sustain community forests.
- They want to utilize what the Knoxville Tree Board has done to help build a tool kit to assist other tree boards across the state.
- TUFC has also renewed the partnership with the TN Division of Forestry and will be working with Diane Warwick.
- TUFC is looking into holding a small one-day conference for each region (East, Middle, and West) this year with hopes to have a large annual conference in 2022. Currently plans are looking at the conferences being in October with hopes for Kasey to present the Canopy Study.
- TUFC will also be looking at doing quarterly workshops moving forward in 2022.

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**Education Update with Craig Walker**

- Small Turnout for April webinar event with about 16 people at the beginning.
- Webinars are scheduled for May ("How Trees Reproduce" presented by Nick St. Sauveur) and June ("How to Select a Tree Company" presented by Kasey Krouse).
- More will be scheduled at the June meeting.
- Kasey suggested reaching out to the Office of Neighborhoods to help get the word out about the webinars, as well as, reaching out to Ashley Kite to reach other people across the state who may be interested in these topics.

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**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

- Planting season is dwindling and now moving into maintenance.

- Kasey met with Tim Simpson (TN Fire Adaptive Community Program) and Knoxville Fire Department about how to help communities be prepared for wildfires.
- They are currently identifying what communities and neighborhoods are most at risk.
- The state and Knoxville Fire Department are currently looking at putting together a 1-1.5 hr seminar of the different methods and options these communities and neighborhoods have to be more fire adaptive.
- Kasey asked the Tree Board to review the proposed changes to the Tree Protection Ordinance and present any comments to him before the next meeting so he can finalize the changes.
- Kasey also asked the Tree Board to be thinking about how green initiatives such as those the City have been pursuing are possibly going to affect the trees- things such as solar panels and charging stations.

#### **Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn**

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- Trees Knoxville started a weed wrangle and general clean up of the Citizens Cemetery to help preserve it with the help of volunteers.
  - Photo link for cemetery: <http://www.treesknoxville.org/pics>
- Trees Knoxville planted 14 trees at Sam Duff Memorial Park.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> was the final Volunteer Forester Training. They had a large class turnout and graduate.
- The grant Tom applied for to secure funding for planting in Mechanicsville was denied.
- Trees Knoxville had to resubmit the canopy assessment work due to an invoice issue.

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

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- Ben Nanny reported that Ijams did a weed wrangle virtually, where people were able to adopt spots across Knoxville virtually- helping to inspire them to do work in their own neighborhoods.
- Ijams also did a training with the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club about proper pruning and trail clearing.
- Ijams River Rescue back in March was almost completely rained out but volunteers were able to get about an hour's worth of cleanup done.
- While there is no official make-up day, several groups opted to choose a make-up day for River Rescue.
- **Nick Bridgeman from Knoxville Utilities Board reported they are finishing up their fiscal year work and about to begin next year.**
- KUB will be doing maintenance in West Hills, Sutherland, Forest Hills, and Holston Hills soon— working on removing vines such as Kudzu and Wisteria.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.