

MINUTES  
KNOXVILLE TREE BOARD  
OCTOBER 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:34 a.m. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Jenny Arthur, Bob Graves, Daniel Steinhoff, Andrew Caylor, Tracy Polite-Johnson, and Anna Toon.

Ex officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Urban Forestry; David McGinley, Stormwater Engineering; Ben Nanny, Ijams Nature Center; and Tim Hester, Parks and Recreation.

Visiting today was Tracie Hellwinckel, Project Manager for Trees Knoxville.

**Action Items for August**

- September minutes were reviewed and approved.

**City Update** by Kasey Krouse

- Kasey gave a presentation on the I Tree Canopy software. This program was developed by the US Forestry Service, and is designed to calculate tree coverage.
  - This presentation showed the inner workings of the program, and how to access tree canopy coverage, and the perks of having this program in place.
  - The City of Knoxville is broken into 60 areas. For the presentation, we looked at the downtown area.
  - He explained the causes and effects of the standard error differences.
  - Most of the loss of tree canopy has been due to development, and this loss shows up as impervious spaces (usually buildings or parking spaces).

**Education Report & Arbor Day** by Craig Walker and Anna Toon.

- On October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm, at the Hollingsworth Auditorium, Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe will present a workshop on "Picking the Right Site for Your Urban Tree". Publicity for this presentation has gone out to several media outlets, emails, and flyers have also been printed.
- Anna gave an update on Arbor Day. Plans have been finalized with Christenberry. All she needs are some T-Shirts for giveaways, and to update and finish the written program.
- Posters will be judged following next month's Board meeting, and the Arbor Day program will be the following day.

**Trees Knoxville Report** by Tom Welborn

- Trees Knoxville will be planning a native fruit tree giveaway during the month of December or January.
- Watering the trees at the schools is continuing.
- An invasive vegetation removal was done at the Mabry Hazen House on September 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 volunteers that removed about 9 truckloads of vegetation from the front of the property.
- On September 15<sup>th</sup> they put up 35 arboretum signs at Gresham Middle School. This is a Girl Scout project.
- A Volunteer Forestry meeting was held at Barley's on September 25<sup>th</sup>. They sponsored a Haiku competition. Lots of fun!
- On September 26<sup>th</sup> they attended a One School One Book event at Bluegrass Elementary. The children counted tree rings, and guessing the number of acorns in a container. Around 200 children attended.
- On October 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a tree walk at the greenway in Farragut.
- Trees Knoxville will also be working with KCDC to plant 40 trees next year.
- Another tree walk is planned for December.

**Other Business:**

- Dale and a couple of other members went out to visit a local tree farm.
- Tom gave some potential dates in November to possibly visit the State tree farm. They will plan to go on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Kasey and Tim will work on transportation.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

- Ben reported on the upcoming ribbon cutting for Ijams Primal Playground on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Training will begin soon for Ijams “weed warriors”. This group is responsible for removal of invasive plants.
- Tom reported on changes in the arboretum selection process.
- David reported that things are moving along nicely with the Riverwalk project.
- Diane nominated Kasey for the Awards of Excellence that is given by the TN Urban Forestry Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.