

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

The meeting was called to order by Dale Madden at 8:35 am. Other board members present were Tom Welborn, Craig Walker, Nick Bridgeman, Robert Graves, Natalia Almonacid, Andrew Caylor, Daniel Steinhoff, and Charles Kwit.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Ben Nanny, Diane Warwick, and Jeanne Stevens.

Visiting this month is Charley Batey.

Action Items for September

- Approve August minutes: Tom Welborn made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Dale Madden.
- Determine interest in committee chairs and confirm Arbor Day event.

City Update with Kasey Krouse

- Kasey stated they will be doing the nursery visit to pick out trees on September 15th. They will be finalizing the list later this week.
- In regards to the Tree Ordinance, Chad Weth and Kasey have approached every City Council member and received feedback from them in support.
 - They are looking to push the Ordinance to the agenda, in the next month or so, ideally in October.
- On September 17-19, the ISA southern tree climbing competition will be at Victor Ashe Park.
 - There will be no international conference.
 - Kasey will send an email out to sign up to volunteer for this event.
- Urban Forestry has been doing a lot of reactive work with storm cleanup. They are behind on work orders but working hard to catch back up.
- They are looking at swapping American elms for Lacebark or Frontier elm as both have a resistance to Dutch-Elm and Elm-yellow disease.

Trees Knoxville Update with Tom Welborn

- Tom participated in the TN River Basin virtual meeting.
- Trees Knoxville rewarded a grant for work in Mary Vestal Park with the Riparian restoration.
 - Received \$4000 for work there.

- Kasey and Tom joined the Tree Committee for Lakeshore Park as they are moving in the Phase 2 of their plan for their ball fields.
 - They are taking down some trees and wanting to plant some to replace and asked Kasey and Tom for input on what to plant.
 - They plan to ask for Arboretum status afterwards.
 - Natalia Almonacid asked to be included in the next meeting they have with the Tree Committee.
- Kasey and Trees Knoxville are also working with a group in Soddy-Daisy, TN to develop a tree board and a similar non-profit like Trees Knoxville.
 - Aiming to sit down and talk with them in October.
- The tree walk at Fourth and Gill drew about 20 people.
- Volunteer Forester Level 1 class will be on 10/13. Registration is online and available to all Tree Board members.
- The TUFC annual conference is going to be one conference (was talked about being 3 for each area of TN) and has no date set yet.
 - Kasey and Trees Knoxville are expected to present the Canopy Assessment.
 - Charley Batey stated that he received confirmation yesterday that they are going to do it virtually.

Education Update with Craig Walker

- No education event is planned for September. Craig is planning to talk to Lee Rumble about doing another event on planting.
- October was possibly Fire Preparedness at Ijams Nature Center.
 - Ben Nanny has not heard any confirmation on this.
 - Kasey will reach out to Tom Simpson to confirm if this event is still happening and if in-person or virtual.
- November is Arbor Day. Tentatively set for West Hills Park based on location and the canopy assessment.
 - Confirmed with Tim Hester that this location should be work.
 - This will be on November 5th. The time is TBD.
 - Craig will look into inviting at least one class from the elementary school, as well as KUB & UT.
 - Arbor Day committee needs to meet and develop program for this year.
 - Dale Madden said he would reach out to the principal of the elementary about any classes that might be interested in joining.
 - Kasey will look into inviting the Mayor and City Council members.
 - Charles Kwit suggested that his students can assist with some of the prep work before November 5th.

Ex-Officio Reports

- Ben Nanny:
 - The Fire Safe/Preparedness will possibly be in October.
 - He has not heard any confirmation though.
 - Kasey again said he will reach back out to Tom Simpson to confirm.
 - Ijams hosted the Hummingbird Festival this weekend.
 - Used full campus for in person event- allowing for proper social distancing.
 - Symphony in the Park is now Twilight at Ijams and will be held in 2 weeks.
 - This is their big fundraiser.
 - Ijams has also been dealing with storm damage cleanup.
 - They are behind on several projects and are hoping to catch up on them in October.
 - They have received storm cleanup help from the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club.
- Jeanne Stevens:
 - Taking over Ex-Officio spot for Mike Reynolds.
 - Jeanne asked to be included in any meetings or plans regarding the Tree mitigation bank of Gov John Sevier Hwy corridor.
 - Jeanne stated that the Knoxville-Knox County Planning is hoping to develop a master plan and recommend developments over the next 15 years.
- Nick Bridgeman:
 - KUB has been focused on storm cleanup as well.
 - Overall their system held up well with all the storms in the area.
 - KUB has a website to see where crew are actively working on tree maintenance.
 - KUB wants to be involved with Arbor Day again.
- Diane Warwick:
 - Tree planting grants for the Agriculture Enhancement Program are delayed with getting the contracts out with the signature.
 - November 1st date has not changed.
 - Diane thanked Kasey and Tom for helping out the Soddy-Daisy group as they had originally reached out to her first.
 - They've had a lot of development and lost a large swath of trees.
 - Diane suggested a good document for merging development and protecting tree canopy.
 - Diane also provided a link to a presentation on using Riparian as a buffer to help with preventing flooding.
 - Diane would be willing to speak on this for an education presentation.
 - The TN Department of Agriculture has contracted the state coordinator position through TUFC to Robert Elliott).

Committee Assignment Discussion

- Dale and Kasey encouraged members to be involved in the committees and subcommittees.
 - Jeanne Stevens asked to be on the Policy and Planning Committee.
 - Ben Nanny wanted to continue being on the Education Committee.
 - Nick Bridgeman asked to be either on the Policy & Planning Committee or Education Committee depending on which had the greater needs for members.
 - Natalia Almonacid asked to be on the Education committee and on the Policy & Planning Committee.
 - Daniel Steinhoff agreed to serve wherever was most needed.
 - Charles Batey was interested in joining both the Tree Board and then joining the Policy & Planning Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.

Upcoming Events

- September 17-19, the ISA southern tree climbing competition will be at Victor Ashe Park.
- October 7th meeting on Zoom at 8:30 am.
- Volunteer Forester Level 1 class will be on 10/13. Registration is online and available to all Tree Board members.

Relevant Links

- "Forest Connectivity in the Developing Landscape" by Karen Firehock
http://www.gicinc.org/PDFs/DesignGuide_final.pdf
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-88hueyJ7j8> Eric Bridges's talk about his masters thesis about value of tree canopy and property value and forested ecosystems.
- KUB Tree Maintenance Crews <https://www.kub.org/about/environment/tree-trimming/tree-pruning-map/>