

**Minutes
September 1, 2011
Knoxville Tree Board**

The regular meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 8:45 by Tree Board Chair, David Vandergriff. Members attending were Bob Santore, Sam Adams, Liz Hannah, Beth MacDonald, Brian Campbell, Terry Faulkner, and Ed Yost.

Ex-Officio Members present were David McGinley, City Engineering, Anne Wallace, Policy and Communications, Jeff McCarter, City Arborist, Liz Albertson, MPC, and Peggy Bradley, Recording Secretary.

Anne Wallace commented there was a spelling error that needed to be corrected in the August minutes to read "formally" and not formerly. Correction will be reflected in the August minutes. Minutes were approved with that change.

Dwight Van de Vate and Cindy Pionke from Knox County were in attendance.

Trevis Gardner was not present to discuss the Island Home Airport Project. Sam Adams commented Cortese Tree was contacted by Mr. Gardner to schedule a time to review the project. This will be put on the October agenda.

There was a discussion regarding the name change of the Education Committee to Events Committee due to the fact that the committee is involved with more than education. Terry Faulkner commented that anyone on the Education Committee would be welcome to join the Events Committee.

Sam Adams commented that the Community Action Committee and the Education Committee appeared to overlap in certain areas and if renamed would there be confusion based on the description of the Education Committee. Beth MacDonald suggested that the Education Committee possibly provide more educational opportunities in the schools as well as focus on Arbor Day event

Terry Faulkner mentioned there were additions to be made to some of the committees. Liz Hannah asked to join the Community Action Committee. Sam Adams pointed out there is currently no chair for this committee. David Vandergriff questioned should "providing educational opportunities to board members" be taken out as part of the responsibilities of the Education Committee with Beth MacDonald responding she felt no, but needed to focus on that as well. Anne Wallace commented that the conference for landscape architects that will be here in the fall might be an opportunity for board members. Sam Adams commented that the Up By Roots Conference was an opportunity as well. Terry Faulkner made the suggestion that the board needed to have further discussion before the Education Committee would be renamed, and agree on what responsibilities the committee was willing to assume. Sam Adams suggested that the board constantly review the charges of each committee.

Sam Adams also commented that the Community Action Committee meet and make a recommendation for a chair for this committee. It was also noted that Patrick Beasley had expressed interest in serving on this committee. Terry Faulkner recommended that

all committee chairs meet and discuss the responsibilities of each committee and take them to the Board. Also, there is to be more discussion before the Education Committee has a name change.

There was discussion of Board vacancies, which Emily Woodle's position is the only vacancy at this time. Sam Adams reported that he had spoken with Michael McCollum, from Wolf Tree, and he was interested in becoming a nominee. Also, he has spoken with Rebekkah Jane Justice, Knox County Greenway Coordinator, and she too is interested in serving as a Board member. Bios will be sent to Cathy Chesney in the Mayor's Office, the Mayor will make a recommendation, and then will go to City Council for approval.

Dwight Van de Vate reported that Knox County is still in a fact finding stage although he and Cindy Pionke have talked for the past few months about developing a tree policy. Mr. Van de Vate commented that governing municipal assets was not a variable for Knox County so much as construction, inspection, and regulating land use management. He also commented that Knox County will focus primarily on a City/County Tree Board at this time, and possibly stay there for a while. If the Hillside Ridgetop Plan does not come through, they would like to have strengthened land use policies that would prevent people from circumventing what would ordinarily come out of MPC and do such things like clear cutting a site and grading under the Right to Farm Act, then subsequently coming in with development plans.

Anne Wallace commented that the City Tree Board and the Tree Ordinance is regarding public property and planting of trees on public spaces, parks, and lands owned by the City. Therefore, if the County is interested in private development regulation, then the City Tree Board might think about the impact of venturing into a gray area where the City might possibly violate their ordinance. There would likely need to be an ordinance change, if the Board decided to look at ordinances for private property.

Sam Adams commented that if the Board was to make a recommendation to the City we would want to address the issues that were brought up by Anne Wallace which could potentially be two focuses, being management of trees as far as municipal assets are concerned, and private property issues that are primary to what Mr. Van de Vate brought up today. Mr. Adams felt we would have to justify before having a combined Tree Board and the Policy and Planning Committee would have to spend time to determine if the concept could be moved forward.

David Vandergriff commented that the Board should be making recommendations to the City once we have the report back from Davey Resource, with Terry Faulkner following up to say that she feels the planting for next year should be based on that report. David encouraged all members to read the completed document. Anne reported that the City plans to edit the final report by September 30, 2011 and the target dates for Davey Resource to present the report to the City Council Workshop is October 13 or October 27.

Anne asked Sam Adams to get the bio information on the two nominees, and suggested that the Board move forward with filling the board vacancies, have a full board, and continue to engage the County and furnish them with resource material once the Davey inventory is complete.

David Vandergriff shared with the Board the registration deadline for the Up By Roots workshop had been extended to September 9, 2011 for the workshop being held on September 20, 2011. There was a brief discussion on the details.

Anne Wallace led a discussion on the booth that the Tree Board members will be having at the Farmers Market to educate the public on trees.. The target dates will be the last two weeks in September and the first week in October. The Board will also go to the Farmers Market at New Harvest Park. More information will be coming.

Anne Wallace gave a few City updates and reported that work was beginning on the tree selection process for this years planting. The City will be outsourcing some additional oversight during the selection process. Once that draft is complete, the Board will be able to review before going to bid. Also, requests will be taken from neighborhoods. Chad Weth and David Brace will begin work on the Capital Budget Requests and will be looking at a three year timeline. One focus will be on ways to deal with storm damage, in terms of tree removal and tree replacement, along with the significant loss of canopy. First round in the budget process will be in January so further updates will be forthcoming.

Bob Santore brought to the Board's attention there were residents cutting down trees in fear of them coming down during a storm. It was suggested to call a certified arborist to take a look before proceeding. There was a brief discussion on doing a PSA for public awareness and putting together information to hand out from the information booth at the Farmers Market.

Terry Faulkner informed the Board that Arbor Day will be held on April 27th. The first three choices of schools to participate are Ftn. City, Christenberry and St. Joseph. Second choices are Bonny Kate, Shannondale, and Carter. The school will be notified beginning in October.

Meeting adjourned 9:55 a.m.