

## Membership Meeting 5/20/2013

Introductions – If you were a tree, what would you be?

Kasey Krouse – City of Knoxville Urban Forester – He talked about his job and his goals. He then reviewed tips for maintaining trees on our own property. [kkrouse@cityofknoxville.org](mailto:kkrouse@cityofknoxville.org) is a way to reach him. He mainly deals with what is on public property. There is a new website for information on species and proper mulching etc. [www.cityofknoxville.org/trees](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/trees). Public safety is the primary mission of his job. 70% of the time is doing a tree risk assessment. He is limited to what he can do on private property but he may be able to come out and assess them and let them know they need to have a professional arborist. He is working on expansion of Tree Canopy. What are we going to plant and where on all public property? He also talked about protection and maintenance of public trees. He does a lot of education too. Goals and projects – They are trying to go from being reactive to being proactive management. They are going out and finding problems first and then maintain them. They have a cyclical pruning schedule every 5 years. He talked about ways to prune when they are young to prevent problems. Long Term planting projects – they want to plant many different types of trees to prevent any one disease from killing the entire crop. No more than 20 % of the total planted should be one species. Tree preservation – They did some research and noticed that trees are not getting past a certain girth. So they looked into what was happening. It was discovered that trees are not growing due to improper planting or mulching, planting too deep. The roots need oxygen and water and will start to come upward or girdling the tree if they are not getting these things. The trunk needs to flare at the bottom to be healthy. Excess mulch around the tree trunk can kill a tree. If it is up against the tree the tree can decay and the tree smothers. He did a little education to explain that it is important that the bark not be damaged because right under the bark is the cambium which is where the plant gets its nutrients to and from the leaves and where it grows. They are now using a lot more oversight with the contractors to make sure that they are planting the plants at the proper depth. The root flare needs to be above ground. Question: Can you save an older tree if it has some of these issues? Answer: If you cut 1/3 of the tree off by pruning one of the double stems, the tree might not recover if it is older. There are ways of saving the tree buy bolting and cabling the branches together by a professional. Question: When KUB trims up a tree it can really hurt the trees, what can be done? Answer: Have a plan for planting trees under the power lines. Don't plant large trees under a power line. Plant shrubs or trees that are small at maturity. There are new regulations on how KUB is to prune trees. Question: Should you have shade trees near the home? Answer: Proper maintenance of the tree will prevent it from falling so it can be fine. Question: What about topping the tree? Answer: It is not beneficial as the sprouts that come back, come back weaker and are more dangerous and susceptible to fall. There was a suggestion to check a tree on Woodlawn Rd that is blocking the view on traffic. He said that that is the perfect example of when to call him even when it is on private property. Question: What about vines on trees? Answer: The vine will only kill the tree if the vine grows faster than the tree and covers the canopy. Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper will not kill the trees. English Ivy or Kudzu will kill trees as it grows very quickly. Question: What can you tell us is being done about Kudzu? Answer: Williams Creek Tennessee clean water will bring in goats to help clean it out. Question: Does it fall under his job? Answer: He said that it does at times. Question: How do you save the dogwoods with Anthracnose? Answer: He explained that it is a fungus and it can stress the tree so that it dies. Since it is a fungus, you can spray for it. He suggested that another answer is to keep the tree healthy, watered in the summer, fertilize it and make sure that it is taken care of rather than spraying if possible. He also said that there are now resistant strains and you can get 20-25 or more years out of a dogwood tree. Question: When is a good time to cut a tree? Answer: The best time is in the winter when there is less likelihood of stress to the tree. Question: Can you explain about how lawn mowers damaging the trees? Answer:

He mentioned that just taking a little sliver off of the bark can hurt the tree and if it is done on all sides, it can kill the tree. Janice brought up a volunteer group to go out and help with people's yards who cannot care for their own yards due to being elderly or due to illness, etc. Kasey mentioned that there might be a project like this in the future. We can look at this for next year and maybe get two reps from each different neighborhood if we could. Kasey indicated that he is interested and will be glad to look in to this next year.

Officer Roark – He wanted to give a 'Thank you' for our officer appreciation on Friday! He then let us know about what is going on in Montgomery Village. He suggested not going through Montgomery Village because there is an influx of gang activity. There are some new gangs and more activity. They are trying to make their claims on the area. There are shootings and innocent people are being affected so it's best not to go that way. He has made some really good arrests lately. They are continuing to patrol the cemetery and at Sam Duff Park and it appears to be going well. The biggest concern is for the elderly, disabled and the children. There was some concern on Moody BLVD where people are getting their copper wires stolen. Officer Roark will check in on it. The group thought it might be 338 Moody possibly. He said that 'For Sale' signs will more than likely bring in the people ready to steal copper. There are also issues with folks stealing stuff out of people's yards, like wheelbarrows. The concern came up about overgrown yards and issues with rental houses not being cared for. Officer Roark suggested that folks call codes if needed. It was also brought to his attention that there are speeders on Busbee and the area neighbors are wanting more police presence. There was a suggestion as to where the police could park and Officer Roark said that he would let the guys know. There was also a mention that on Cruze Road they are speeding as well as driving on the wrong side of the road as well. There was also mention that a particular family allowed their dogs to be free in the yard and the dogs are coming after her car. He suggested that they call animal control. There is a leash law or they can be behind a fence. There was also an issue brought up that the fire trucks off of Chapman Highway were not able to get out of the fire house in an emergency. We asked what could be done about this. There was a suggestion to call 311 to be able to let the fire trucks out. If enough neighbors call about it, it will help the fire station get a light or some signage.

Nick Pavlis was not able to come tonight due to the change in date. Janice mentioned that he has many meetings to attend. There was a suggestion that he come every other time and send a report to the ones he is unable to attend. Nick provided a report for this meeting: "May 20, 2013 Ok big issues for the meeting; Budget has passed on first reading and Council is in budget hearings all day tomorrow beginning at 8:30 and concluding at 5:30 with public forum. Highlights are NO TAX INCREASE!! No cut backs or elimination of services. We have a healthy fund balance and I do not anticipate any real challenge to any portion of the Mayor's proposed budget. Major capital projects include 16 million dollar improvements to the zoo. It is the second leading attraction, Vol football 1st, so it is important to our City to have upgrades to this popular regional attraction. With that in mind, we are doing road improvements to Prosser Road due to the terrible flooding problems they experience there every time there is a major rain. Also improvements to Lake Shore Park one of Knoxville's most visited and used park. A new Public Works building to replace an antiquated facility that is need of much repair so a new facility is a better investment than continually replacing portions of an outdated facility. Discussions will begin this week with the City/County administration, Knoxville Chamber, UT College of Business, Legacy Parks on the marketing funds that have been made available to our local merchants suffering through the bridge closure. A team of folks have been working on a master plan for the improvements to Fort Dickerson. We are in final stages and then will present to Mayor Rogero for her approval. It will be family friendly with full utilization of the park. This was fully funded two years ago and I believe we have fully vetted the subject and hopefully everyone will be happy with the final product. JWP Extension-We

continue to meet with Commissioner Schroer and his local team on the extension proposal. No decision has been made but I do anticipate we will know early summer of their plans to extend or not.”

Secretary Report – Last meeting’s minutes did not go out to the Membership. It is on the website, though. There was no vote on this.

Janice told the group what the Neighborhood Association was about since there were so many new people there. She asked for suggestions for future meetings. Several suggestions were made to have people talk about Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management.

Treasurer’s Report – Motion to Approved for Audit, Seconded and passed unanimously.

Newsletter – This was well done and distributed by hand. Janice asked for volunteers since there is such a large area. Brandon, Brandy, Raymond, and Barbara all volunteered. They are going to sign up with Marcia with their name and number.

Ongoing Civil Servant Appreciation – Officer Appreciation – Debbie reported on this and stated that it appeared to go really well. The officers seemed to really like the donations for the K9 officers. Village Bakery donated the cookies and cupcakes to the officers and River Dog Bakery donated the baskets of goodies for the K9 officers. The next thing up is to thank the Fire Fighters. Kat agreed to head this up and Shelley agreed to help her. There are 3 or 4 stations depending if the county one is done. They might see if other neighborhood associations might want to join in as well.

Neighborhood Certification – Debbie reported that there had just been a WHO SW meeting and that we went over the point system. We are getting close to being certified. The biggest thing needed at this point is to get houses certified. We also need folks to get their neighbors to sign up as well. Applications were passed out. Janice and Sylvia announced that Joe Armstrong said that since he has taken so long to get the check to us he would upgrade it to 250.00 for us. Danny announced that if anyone signed up tonight it would be covered by the donations. Several people took him up on it and got their forms filled out quickly.

Amphitheater – Janice gave an update about where we were on the outdoor classroom. We have three grants that Kathy wrote (which are more than NWF has ever seen a group get). She also mentioned that they have approached other local politicians and gotten a good response for donations. There are a few more on the list.

Our Party in the Park was announced. It will be June 8<sup>th</sup> at Meadow Hills Park starting at 5:00 pm. Plates, Napkins, Cups, Plastic Wear, Drinks, and Charcoal will be provided. Things each person needs to bring: a favorite comfort food dish, something to grill on the coals for yourself (like a hot dog, hamburger, veggie burger, or Portobello mushroom) and a musical instrument to see if we can JAM!

There was an announcement that Home Depot was partnering with Chik-Fil-A to Honor the veterans and seniors from 8:30 to 10:30 on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Janice reminded everyone about the Welcome Packets. She reminded everyone to let Kat, or any of the Board, know of new folks moving in and we can get them a packet.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm

Melody Moneymaker mentioned that she will be certifying on line.