The meeting was called to order by Dan Steinhoff at 8:32 am. Other board members present were Charles Holland Jr., Gordon Coker, Bob Graves, Jessica Rodocker, Kelsey Jones, Natalia Almonacid, and Charles Batey.

Ex-Officio members present were Kasey Krouse, Diane Warwick, Jessie Hillman, and Lee Rumble.

Visitors this week were Cara Sullivan, Tracie Hellwinckel with Tree Knoxville, and Saylor White.

**Action Items for February**

- Approve February Minutes: Bob Graves made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Jessica Rodocker.
- Review changes suggested from February meeting and approve the updated By-Laws.

**City Update with Kasey Krouse**

- Almost all planned tree plantings are finished.
  - The 3 year planting contract is up for bid this year and a big is going up for a new nursery and installer.
- Urban Forestry has had a couple projects in conjunction with Trees Knoxville.
  - The Forest Avenue planting went well.
  - Around 50 volunteers in total with 7-8 being volunteer foresters.
  - A total of 40 trees were planted around the block.
- Urban Forestry got a new knuckleboom and are working on catching-up on general brush pickup.
- On the Central Avenue street scape, several trees have died so Urban Forestry is working on replacing them, with several already replaced.
- Kasey and his crew are working with the new baseball stadium on tree loss mitigation.
- Kasey will be requesting $40,000 for the Master Plan from the City-Council this year.
  - Kasey asked that the Tree Board offer support to this proposal through a letter to the City-Council.
  - Bob Graves volunteered to head that up and Jessica Rodocker offered to assist.
- Kasey is working with Trees Knoxville to put together a request for proposals.
  - Once the master plan is funded, the requests for proposals would be sent out to different consultants to help develop the plan.
  - Kasey suggested forming a committee to review the proposals and to eventually choose the consultant to form the master plan.
- Kelsey Jones, Natalia Almonacid, Jessie Hillman, Jessica Rodocker, Bob Graves, and Dan Steinhoff volunteered to be on this committee with Bob as chair.
- Kasey also reached out to the TUFC for help with funding this plan and met with Diane Warwick, Robert Hoover, and Robert Elliot where they offered a possible matching grant.

**Trees Knoxville Update with Tracie Hellwinckel**

- The tree planting 02/26 of 40 trees on Forest Avenue went well.
- A tree planting is planned for this weekend on 03/05 at West Hills Elementary in addition to the Weed Wrangle with Ijams at Goose Creek.
- On 3/12 will be Trees Knoxville’s 12th giveaway with 165 trees to giveaway.
  - This giveaway is locked to Knox County residents.
  - There will be $10 raffle tickets to win a big Dogwood tree.
- On 3/26, a tree planting at Goose Creek to follow-up from the Weed Wrangle is planned.
  - It will be a live planting with about 100 trees.
- A final planting is planned 4/2 at West Valley Middle School with 8-10 trees.
  - This is the same day as the Neighborhood Conference.

**Education Update with Charles Batey**

- Charles Batey has been working with Debbie Sharp from the Office of Neighborhoods to get a brief paragraph about a topic from last month’s tree board meeting published in the neighborhood’s newspaper.
- Charles plans to provide a topic each month but would appreciate feedback/suggestions from other board members.
- Bob Graves suggested a video series to be published highlighting local trees from Kasey’s Tree List on the Urban Forestry website.

**Ex-Officio Reports**

- Lee Rumble
  - On March 11th, will be hosting the Grounds Management Short Course in Chattanooga.
- Diane Warwick
  - Tomorrow ¾ is Tennessee’s stat Arbor Day (the first Friday in March) with 6 or 7 cities celebrating.
  - National Arbor Day is 4/30.
  - TUFC is helping Mufreesboro with funding for a canopy study.
  - The state is getting more requests for funding for these canopy studies.
- Jessie Hillman
Knox County is launching their comprehensive plan.
They are looking for community engagement on 3/27-3/30 with several virtual and in person meetings.
They have 5 consultants on the team.
Public input can also be given through advanceknox.org which is maintained by Knoxville-Knox Planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

**Upcoming Events**

- On March 5th, Weed Wrangle at Goose Creek and tree planting at West Hills Elementary School.
- On March 11th, Grounds Maintenance Management Short Course in Chattanooga with Lee Rumble.
- On March 12th, Trees Knoxville 12th tree giveaway.
- On March 26th, a tree planting at Goose Creek with Trees Knoxville.
- On April 2nd, a tree planting at West Valley Middle School with Trees Knoxville and the Neighborhood Conference.
- On April 7th, Tree Board meeting at 8:30 am at the Public Works Service Center at 3131 Morris Avenue.