

Clarksville Tree Board  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 4:00 PM  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
Agenda

4:00: Call to order—Karla Gargus

Adoption of minutes from previous meeting.

Announcements: Karla Gargus

- Follow up report on Riverside Trees
- Copies of our tree ordinance and landscape ordinance will be provided for all tree board member. Please become familiar with these documents.
- As an active tree board member, it would be to your advantage to complete the online Tree Board University <https://treeboardu.org>
  - After completion please provide tree board chair a copy of your certificate for record keeping purposes

Continuing business:

City Forester Update – Kathrine

- Goals and Objectives for the Board for the coming year for the Tree Board. it is what the Board will do for the public. examples include:
- Tree Topping Campaign, Reviewing Bylaws, Mission Statement, Member Vacancies, Assigning Tasks and Roles to our tree board members, Arbor Day Celebration, TAEP Grant, Seedling Giveaways. Big Tree Contest. Art Contest.
- Also, we need to be more aware of what we are doing with our TAEP grant. There is now a climate and economic justice screening map for making sure we are giving disadvantaged communities trees also.

<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#11.85/36.54148/-87.38289>

Old business:

1. Big Tree Contest and Landmark Tree Program
2. Update-Tree Board Members for vacancies: Michael Palmore

New business:

Other business:

Next meeting:

**February 4:00 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall**  
\*RESCHEDULED DUE TO KARLA AND KATHRINE ATTENDING  
THE MIDDLE TN GROUNDS MANAGEMENT SHORTCOURSE IN  
FRANKLIN TN.

c. 5:00: Adjourn

**Clarksville Tree Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 12th, 4 pm**

**Attendance:**

Tree Board members: Chairperson Karla Gargus, Karen Reynolds, Alexandra Wills, Sheela Clark and Misty Robertson.

City Staff: Michael Palmore, Cindy Miller, and Mark Riggins. Kathrine Killebrew was present by phone.

Guests: Buck Dellinger and Janet Wilson of the EDC, Billy Burgett (Karen Reynolds husband), Bob Moore and wife, and Reginald Lowe.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karla Gargus at 4:00 pm.

A motion was made by Karen Reynolds to start the public hearing about the Riverside Drive project. Sheela Clark seconded.

**Public comments about Riverside Drive Project:**

Mark Riggins, Director of Gas & Water, was asked to speak about the Riverside Drive project. He advised that John Hillborn had contacted him to look at the tree wells and how to remove the tree stumps/roots without damaging the current utility infrastructure below utilizing a hydro excavator. Mr. Riggins after inspecting the area discovered under the wells there are water mains that are under extreme high pressure. He advised that the high-pressure water main starts at the bypass and runs down to Crossland avenue to College street at approximately 12 inches and steps down to 8 inches and then to 6 inches under the wells. The water main is at extreme high pressure. He advised that the trees should never have been planted there previously as the tree roots were wrapping around the water pipes and advises that there will not be any trees planted in the new wells due to this discovery. He also stated that anything we plant today we will be dealing with the problems of it in 10 years and there should be no excavating of any type done in these wells and should be no trees planted as they could possibly damage the current underground infrastructure.

Palmore advised that there are 99 trees and 42 wells are currently empty. The current existing live trees are in decline and will need to be eventually removed and the sidewalks/brick areas will need to be repaired soon to be compliant.

Karen Reynolds wanted to know the depth of the pipes and were there trees on both sides of the road. Mark Riggins advised that they are about 3 feet under the surface.

Another speaker [ Bill Moore ? ] was asking about the trees and where they were located and the board advised the locations on Riverside.

Commented [1]: Who?

Another speaker [ Buck Dellinger ] asked if the trees were removed and not replanted it would be hotter and destroy the look of the riverside. He advised that Riverside drive was not set up originally to add green infrastructure correctly

Commented [2]: Who?

Karen said that if Riverside was widened would there be room enough for trees then? She suggested putting trees in planters.

Alex advised that trees do not do well in concrete planters.

Karla advised that it was not feasible to put trees in those wells and that planters would be high maintenance and who would have the time to take care of those planters. She advised the wrong species of trees were planted in the tree wells on Riverside in the beginning and that every 10 years those trees will need to be replaced and at this point the trees are overgrown and the business owners are upset with them and they are currently heaving up the sidewalks.

Karen advised that the business owners and a few of them are disappointed that new trees will not be planted. Karla advised that the business owners could plant trees in their own green spaces and that they could do some type of beautification in their business areas in lieu of the trees.

Michael advised that we are already in progress of relocating the trees that were purchased for riverside. Some have already been planted on city property at Fire Station Station 10 and at Riverview Cemetery.

What is the TIF District? Tax Increment Financing - The way I understand it, it is an incentive by a government body to encourage growth or attract developers. I think the way it works is they pay less taxes in the early years.

Commented [3]: I have no clue what this is. Can someone explain?

Commented [4]: Tax Increment Financing - The way I understand it, it is an incentive by a government body to encourage growth or attract developers. I think the way it works is they pay less taxes in the early years.

Someone discussed too much concrete, not enough green space downtown and increasing housing that needs to be regulated somehow.

Commented [5]: Who?

Billy Burgett- discussed traffic issues and transportation problems in Clarksville and what needs to be done about the situation.

Buck Dillenger - discussed why apartments have too many parking spaces vs green infrastructure areas.

Karen Reynolds moved to return to regular session. **Misty Robertson seconded.**

**Motion to adopt last meeting minutes:** by Karla Gargus, **Seconded by: Sheila Clark** Motion passed.

**Update from City Forester:** by Michael Palmore in Kathrine's absence.

**Xmas tree recycling** will be done from December 26th to January 9th. Press release will go out for this event. Some of the wording was suggested to be changed and a question was brought up about local businesses bringing in their leftover Christmas trees.

**TAEP grant- 30 trees** are in the progress of being planted at Riverview Cemetery and at Smith Trahern Mansion. Another 25 trees will be planted at Swan Lake Golf Course. **Tree USA** completed and waiting on State approval.

**Big Tree/Landmark Tree contest:** There are a lot of entries per Karla. The varieties need to be verified by the tree board and volunteers are needed to help as the Forester cannot possibly do all of them. Karla suggested maybe some of her Master Gardeners and 4 H agents could be utilized to help and would be a good educational opportunity to learn to ID trees.

Tree board members: One vacant seat is left.

New business:

Landscape short course follows on the dates of the next tree board meeting and Karla and Kathrine will not be able to attend the next tree board meeting January 14th, 4pm. January 18th at 4pm was suggested for the alternative date for the Tree Board meeting.

Alexandra Wills motioned to Adjourn: Seconded by Karen Reynolds.

Commented [6]: Is "Misty Robinson" the correct name? New board member?

Commented [GK7R6]: I double checked an email she sent me and it was signed "Robertson"

Commented [8]: I do not know. Karla do you know?

Commented [GK9R8]: I double checked an email she sent me and it was signed "Robertson"

Commented [10]: So there is one seat left right?