

KUB Tree Trim Policy Review Panel Meeting Notes – May 20, 2010

The Tree Trim Policy Review Panel met on Thursday, May 20, 2010. All panel members were present except Luis Velazquez who was absent.

The panel brainstormed the issue of what preventive actions KUB can take to improve tree trimming. A list of ideas was developed for future use. In addition, the group voted on the manner in which they plan to address each of the issues identified during brainstorming sessions in order to move forward with deliberations and submit recommendations to the KUB Board later this summer.

Dawn Ford then discussed with the group how to approach the next phase of work, focusing on each of the individual issues. The panel was divided into three groups, and it was decided that each group would address the same issues and periodically reconvene as a whole for feedback.

Jim Bletner will invite a faculty member from the University of Tennessee School of Law to discuss property rights at the next meeting. KUB's legal counsel will also be asked to present on KUB's rights and responsibilities regarding tree trimming and the safe operation of the electric system.

The next two meeting dates are June 2 and June 17 each from 4 to 8 p.m. The meetings will be held at 445 S. Gay Street. Public input will be accepted near the end of each meeting.

Public Input:

Mr. Christian Seus addressed the panel regarding a tree trim issue last fall. He stated his belief that tree trimming is necessary, but he feels that his trees were pruned beyond the ten-foot trim zone. He stated that his trees were butchered with 50 percent of the front of the tree gone from top to bottom.

Mr. Seus said that he worked with a KUB forester at the time and that the forester proposed an unacceptable alternative of cutting down both trees, leaving the stumps, and planting smaller replacement trees. Mr. Seus said there is a five-foot easement on his land but KUB took 25 feet.