

KUB Tree Trim Policy Review Panel
Notes from the Public Listening Session
February 16, 2010

Panel Members Present: Jim Bletner; Cindy Bradley; Dwain Burke; Bill Elmore; Jennifer Gihring; Sara Hedstrom; Doug Irwin; Montana Jones; Brenda Palmer; Barbara Pelot; Scott Romines; Jamie Rowe; Larry Silverstein; David Vandergriff; and Luis Velazquez.

Panel Member Absent: Randy Humble.

The Tree Trim Policy Review Panel held a Public Listening Session on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at KUB Headquarters located at 445 S. Gay Street, Knoxville.

Panel Facilitator Dawn Ford, KUB Board Chair Pace Robinson, and KUB President and CEO Mintha Roach extended a welcome to those attending. The Panel provided the public with brief self-introductions.

Tom Simpson, the East Tennessee Regional Urban Forester for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, shared information with the public regarding national pruning standards and utilities.

Eight individuals addressed the Panel and the Facilitator documented the comments on a flip chart for the Panel's future consideration and discussion. Here is a brief summary of the speakers' comments:

- The first speaker wanted to know by what legal authority KUB is allowed to trim trees. He said about 3-1/2 to 4 years ago a KUB representative failed to follow-up with him about a tree trimming complaint.
- The next speaker asked about training for tree trim contractor crews. He wants the contract crews to be aware of the information provided in Tom Simpson's presentation. He said a crew working at his home wanted to cut a dogwood, but he prevented it. He noted a KUB contract crew killed his large oak about 7 years ago. He also mentioned KUB's most recent tree trimming activity on his property was satisfactory.
- A representative for Scenic Knoxville suggested the Panel have more interaction and involvement with the City Tree Board.
- A certified arborist noted that the Tree Line USA standards are good standards to follow and expressed interest in the continuing work of the panel.
- A North Knoxville customer shared a very recent experience with a KUB contractor that failed to respect his property by excessively trimming a sycamore tree and causing property damage.
- One customer suggested expanding the use of underground utilities and wanted to know the cost of KUB's annual tree trimming program (response: \$6 million). He talked about KUB's tree replacement program and encouraged KUB to better communicate the program's availability.
- A North Knox County resident expressed her dissatisfaction with the recent trimming of white pines underneath the distribution and transmission lines that

are located within the 50-foot utility easement on her property. She brought along photographs of the trimmed trees to share with the Panel members. She also said a rhododendron was destroyed by the contract crews that trimmed the trees.

- The final speaker said the panel is not what Rob Frost (former City Council member) had in mind when he sponsored the resolution regarding KUB's trimming practices. She also noted Tom Simpson's presentation was very informative. She stated that she felt there was a gap between worker training and the results seen in the field.

A number of the speakers stated they were pleased a Tree Trim Policy Review Panel has been established.

The Panel will meet next in a working session on Thursday, March 4, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the KUB Headquarters located at 445 Gay Street. The Panel also set another working session for Thursday, March 18, from 4 to 8 p.m. At the conclusion of each of the Panel's working sessions, the public may address the Panel.

[Prepared on behalf of the Panel by Pam Jordan, Manager, KUB Communications]