

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA

Minutes of Meeting June 13, 2017
Community Room, Oxford City Hall

At 5:00 p.m. Chairman Ready called the meeting to order.

Attendance

Present – Members Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Sallie Robinson
City Manager Bob Schwartz
Assistant City Manager Matt Pepper
City Superintendent Jody Reid
City Arborist Beryl Budd GUFCA
GUFCA Community Forester Seth Hawkins
Oxford College Senior Manager of Operations Kendra Mayfield

Guests – Jeff Wearing, Planning Commission Vice Chairman
Deanna Kelly, Porterdale Tree Board Chairman

Absent – Members Laura McCanless, Anderson Wright, Andrea O'Toole, Glenda Stewart

Agenda for meeting, accepted

Minutes from meeting of April 11, 2017 could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

Reports and updates:

1. Protocol for engaging professional help in controlling forest fires, according to Arborist Budd and Forester Hawkins: In case of a fire anywhere, the procedure is to call 911, which then contacts the County Fire Department, whose battalion chief then determines when/if to call in Georgia Forestry Service if GFC is not already aware of the fire.
2. Continuation of privet control along Wesley and Fletcher Streets: Beryl and Seth direct that best control comes from first spraying with Roundup when foliage is new and then cut. Jody will acquire work order to proceed.
3. Replacement trees for Emory Street – What's the plan? Beryl reports: Mowing too close has resulted in pushing the mulch rings too high on the base of the new trees; dead wood should be removed; stump sprouts could be selected for removal and remaining strongest ones encouraged to become strong; and, consider replacing certain young trees this fall.
4. Completion of Old Church crosswalk extension – Jody reports that the sod is greening.
5. Mitchell Street Park: Jody reports that the poles have been removed as requested but that the swale is not deep enough (according to requirements for volume of water) to warrant a culvert. Engineer Robert Jordan can suggest possible solution to address the concern. Suggestion discussed: parking should be restricted to street for 2 reasons: vehicular intrusion into the small park limits exploration and future of the City's lease is uncertain.
6. George Street Park – Jody reports that the Murdy tree is fine.
7. Asbury Street Park ad hoc committee's recommendations for park; seek approval from TPR and recommendation to present to City Council – No vote could be taken due to lack of a quorum; however, the members present accepted the plan as presented. One member expressed the possibility that cost overruns should be anticipated and that additional funds could be reallocated from the George St. trail extension project. The suggestion was not discussed.
8. Pruning issues – status and concerns: See items 2 and 3 above. Jody reports clearing from the Asbury Park site all trees marked for removal by Beryl and Seth.

Arbor Day, 2018

Date decided: 3rd Saturday, February 17, 2018

Cheryl has ideas and solicits others (Sallie Robinson offered help engaging teachers):

Dramatic reading of *The Giving Tree*

Poetry contest

Children receive understory dogwoods for planting among Asbury Park canopy trees. These should be ordered now from Forestry Service. (Concerns: weather and readiness of park)

Oxford College's interests and concerns Kendra Mayfield clarified the arboretum concept.

Arboretum to extend from College quadrangle, all the way through Asbury Park.

Create app accessed by personal smart phones – College IT would develop.

Purpose: engage participants in tangible and intangible values of the trees.

Include scientific identifications, economic worth, aesthetic appeal, poetry, song, reading, video.

Concerns and announcements

1. One member expressed concern about loss of tree canopy to create the George Street trail extension, as well as the cost of this currently budgeted project (see 7 above).

2. In response to a report of the Oxford Historical Society Executive Board's planting two crepe myrtle trees street-side of the wall at Old Church, discussion followed and this question was raised: Our ordinance prohibits cutting of trees on City right-of way; but, does City have a position on planting new trees on right-of-way without TPR consultation? City Manager Schultz will research.

Adjournment 6:25 PM

Next meeting August 8, 2017

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary