

TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

AGENDA

August 17, 2021 – 5 PM

1. **Opening** – Cheryl Ready, Chair
2. ***Minutes** – We have attached the minutes for July 20, 2021.
3. **Asbury Street Park and City Trail Maintenance** – The Board will continue discussions on the landscape maintenance at Asbury Street Park as well as how to best contain invasive species in the city's right-of-way. A team from ReForest ATL will present some information to the Tree Board on ecologically friendly methods to remove invasive species.
4. **Emory Street Tree Replacement Project** – The Board will continue their discussion on the project to replace the tree canopy along Emory Street.
5. **City Tree Inventory** – Mr. Budd will update the Board on the project to update the city's tree inventory.
6. **Other Business**
7. **Adjournment**

*** Attachments**

OXFORD TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Minutes – July 20, 2021

MEMBERS: Michael Rogers, Vice Chair; Theresa Eady, Secretary; Anderson Wright, Mike McQuaide, Nakeisha Cummings, and Amos Downs. Cheryl Ready was absent.

STAFF: Beryl Budd, City Arborist; Jody Reid, Utilities Superintendent.

GUESTS: Yaling Covey, Oxford College Student; Laura Gafnea, Director of Community Relations, Oxford College.

OPENING: At 5:03 PM, Mr. Rogers called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Ms. Eady, seconded by Mr. Wright, the minutes for the meeting of June 15, 2021 were adopted. The vote was 4-0.

CITY TREE INVENTORY: Ms. Gafnea reported that Ms. Covey had begun her training with Mr. Beryl Budd, the City Arborist, to complete the update of the city's tree inventory. Mr. Budd reported that the base maps have been updated and that they were able to inventory 150 trees this week. Ms. Covey will provide updates to the Board as the project progresses.

ASBURY STREET PARK AND CITY TRAIL MAINTENANCE: Ms. Eady reported that some Board members met to discuss the status of Asbury Street Park's landscape (grass, flower beds, natural area, etc.). As a result of the meeting, city staff asked the landscape maintenance contractor to cut the grass at a height of 3 inches and spot treat weeds. City staff will talk with the contractor about implementing an all-organic fertilizer and herbicide program.

Ms. Eady also reported that the group discussed ways to rid the city's rights-of-way and trail system of invasive species. The group also discussed ways to beautify the right-of-way and trails. The Board discussed the possibility of hiring a third-party contractor or utilizing students from Oxford College to help with removing the invasive species. Mr. Budd recommended the Board consider spraying in the winter when Privet is green and other plants and foliage are in their dormant state.

EMORY STREET TREE REPLACEMENT PROJECT: The Board discussed their project to replace the tree canopy on Emory Street/SR 81. The Board will develop a plan for contacting the property owners at their August meeting. The Board plans to contact the property owners in August and September. The Board will ask Ms. Ready to retrieve the letter that was previously sent to property owners along Emory Street. The letter is a good source for the Board's talking points as they approach the property owners.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Wright asked if Mr. Budd could visit Mitchell Street Park to assess the dogwoods planted there. Mr. Budd stated that he visited the park, and the trees were in poor health. Mr. Wright asked if they could be replaced. Mr. Budd will research local nurseries for replacement dogwoods.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Rogers adjourned the meeting at 5:36 PM.

Submitted by:

Theresa Eady, Secretary