

# TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

## AGENDA

**July 20, 2021 – 5 PM (Via Teleconference)**

### Meeting Access Information:

Online: [Click Here](#)

Mobile Number: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 933 2940 9843

Passcode: 981401

1. **Opening** – Michael Rogers, Vice Chair
2. **\*Minutes** – We have attached the minutes for June 15, 2021.
3. **City Tree Inventory** – The Board will discuss the project to update the city's tree inventory.
4. **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.
5. **Emory Street Tree Replacement Project** – The Board will continue their discussion on the project to replace the tree canopy along Emory Street.
6. **Other Business**
7. **Adjournment**

**\* Attachments**

# OXFORD TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Minutes – June 15, 2021

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

**STAFF:** Beryl Budd, City Arborist; Seth Hawkins, GFC Community Forester; Jody Reid, Utilities Superintendent; Matthew Pepper, City Manager.

**GUESTS:** Patty Roberts.

**OPENING:** At 5:01 PM, Ms. Ready called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

**MEMBERSHIP** Ms. Ready announced that the Mayor and City Council appointed Amos Downs to serve as a member of the Board.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Ms. Eady, seconded by Mr. McQuaide, the minutes for the meeting of May 18, 2021 were adopted as amended. The vote was 4-0.

**ASBURY STREET PARK:** Ms. Ready shared with the Board that there are some dead bushes at Asbury Street Park. Ms. Ready also mentioned that there is a tree stump near the playground area that needs to be removed. Mr. Pepper responded that the city will remove the stump. The Board discussed the status of the grass at the park. The grass has developed several pockets of weeds and looks to be in poor health. The Board noted that the best way to maintain the grass is to treat it with chemically based fertilizers and weed killers. Mr. Budd recommended obtaining a soil sample to help the city determine the PH level. The Board will continue to research practices to improve the health of the grass.

**CITY TREE INVENTORY:** Ms. Ready shared that she along with Mr. Budd, Mr. Hawkins, and Mr. Pepper had met with Laura Gafnea (Director of Community Relations, Oxford College) and the student interested in completing the internship with the Board. Ms. Ready explained that the internship would most likely run for four (4) weeks in mid-July. Mr. Budd and Mr. Hawkins would train the student on how to complete the update of the city's tree inventory. The project would also include adding newly planted trees to the inventory. In addition, the Board will need to provide a job description to Oxford College detailing the tasks the student will complete. Ms. Ready and Mr. Pepper will write the description. The Board is waiting for additional information from Oxford College regarding the total cost to provide housing and food for the student. The plan would be for the Board to split these costs with Oxford College.

**EMORY STREET TREE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:** The Board discussed their project to replace the tree canopy on Emory Street/SR 81. During the discussion, the Board reviewed the list of possible planting sites. 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.

**ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION GROWTH AWARD:** Ms. Ready stated that the updated tree canopy will provide the Board with enough points to earn the Growth Award for 2021.

**TREE CITY OF THE WORLD:** Ms. Ready reported that Mr. Hawkins completed the i-Tree Canopy for the city. It is a web-based software that helps determine the density of the vegetation cover. Mr. Hawkins reported that the city's canopy coverage is about 70%. He will share the report with the individual Board members. The Board will submit the i-Tree Canopy report with their Tree Cities of the World application in the fall.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The Board discussed returning to in-person meetings in July. The Board members present at the meeting indicated that they had no issues with returning to in-person meetings. Mr. Pepper will contact the other Board members to inquire if they have any concerns. If not, the Board will plan on meeting in person for their July meeting.

Ms. Eady expressed a concern that the newly planted dogwood trees at 1008 Emory Street were not receiving enough water. In response, Mr. Reid stated that the city waters the trees twice a week.

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 last month 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:** Ms. Ready adjourned the meeting at 5:46 PM.

Submitted by:

Theresa Eady, Secretary