

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA
Minutes of Meeting
5:00 P.M., June 11, 2013
Council Meeting Room, Oxford City Hall

Attendance

Members: Chairman Cheryl Ready, Secretary LaTrelle Oliver, Hulon Clemons.
City Supervisor: Jody Reid.

Call to Order: Chairman Cheryl Ready called the meeting to order. Because of no quorum, no voting could occur, but on-going interests were expressed.

Vote to approve meeting's agenda: postponed due to lack of quorum

Vote to approve minutes of meeting on April 9, 2013: postponed due to lack of quorum

Arborist Connie Head emailed a PDF report, which members did not receive before the meeting. Hard copy is attached at end of Secretary's copy of these minutes. At the Chairman's request, Councilman Windham read the report aloud.

OLD BUSINESS reporting

1. George Street Park: two tree care workshops (pruning and mulching) held May 4 and June 4 accomplished pruning and mulching for approximately two-thirds of the area – during a total of four hours. Participation: Two TPR board members each time and six guests (3 each time – three affiliated with Oxford, three from greater Newton County) worked with arborist Connie Head.
2. City Hall landscaping needs (mulching, pruning, mowing) are being addressed by city staff. Needs improvement.
3. Whatcoat Street *willow oaks* have been pruned (removal of lower limbs and crown cleaning). Arbor Equity of Covington (Dan Bauer) was awarded the bid. Dramatic improvement for safety, aesthetics, and potential health of the fourteen trees!
4. Prioritize pruning of other previously discussed city trees:
 - (1) By July 3, the 8-10 cherry trees on Fletcher in front of Old Church
 - (2) River birch on trail at Clark Street
 - (3) Trident maples on Clark Street right-of-way beside trail (Consider a professional company for this work.)
 - (4) Ask Arborist about dogwoods along old sidewalk in front of 208 West Clark Street.
5. The Yarbrough Oak site should be identified with a significant marker at some future point when a plan is developed for the central city property; City Manager's research has determined that the City does own the property where the tree once stood.
6. No word on request that FY2014 budget include a new staff position for an appropriately knowledgeable person to maintain City's landscapes.
7. Update Work Plan for 2013 to include remainder of the year. Arborist will define and review with City Staff and TPR board.

NEW BUSINESS reporting

1. Addressing ongoing George Street Park needs:
 - Eradicate encroaching vegetation (including poison ivy) from mulched areas under trees and brick pads beneath the two memorial benches.
 - Complete pruning, mulching, and applying City supplied grass/weed killer (Hulon Clemons, Cheryl Ready, and others who are able will volunteer to work Thursday, June 20th, at 4:00.)
 - Hereafter, City should maintain regularly.
 - Broadcast ant killer – should be City's ongoing task due to need for equipment (spreader) and amount of granular chemical. Volunteer(s) could help with mound treatment using city-purchased product.
 - Remove failed black locust near site of storm-damaged elm that was removed near Asbury Street.
 - Clear and repair grate and area as required at Wesley Street drain culvert. Urgent.
 - Replant trees that failed (corkscrew willow, red maple, sourwood, yellowwood).
 - Consider moving gazebo to a more central site near City Hall.
 - Consider redoing memorial bench pads and funding more substantial plaques.
 - Upgrade contents of informational kiosk and re-stain exterior.
2. Ask City Manager Bob Schwartz about reporting to Council: agenda, minutes.
3. TPR board members: Currently, four of the required five voting members remain. Absences often occur, which makes a quorum impossible. Council should appoint another member (Chapter 39: Tree Ordinance Section 39-102).
4. Anticipated sidewalk and water line projects affect south Emory Street. Future of trees to be determined.
5. Tree City and Growth Award applications for 2014 should be completed by October 31, 2013.

Additional Concerns:

Councilman, Jim Windham (liaison to TPR board) made a slide show presentation highlighting his vision of the City of Oxford's potential for being a truly beautiful municipality if its streets and park areas are enhanced and maintained.

Announcement: Next TPR Board meeting date, August 13, 2013.

Meeting ended at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary