

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

Minutes of Meeting December 8, 2015

Community Room, Oxford City Hall

At 5:00: Newton County District 4 Commissioner J. C. Henderson presented to City of Oxford Mayor Jerry Roseberry and TPR Board / Asbury Street Park Committee Chairman Cheryl Ready a \$100,000 SPLOST check to be used toward construction of the park. Brian Fazio of *The Covington News* and City of Oxford Police Chief Dave Harvey photographed the group, which included members of the TPR Board, the Asbury Street Park Committee, and Mrs. Henderson.

At 5:20: Chairman Ready called The TPR Board meeting to order.

Attendance

Members Present – Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Andrea O'Toole, Anderson Wright

Member absent – Hulon Clemons

City Manager Bob Schwartz

City Superintendent Jody Reid

City Arborist Beryl Budd

Others absent – Oxford College representatives and GUFC Seth Hawkins

Approval of Minutes for meeting of October 13, 2015

Motion to approve by Andrea O'Toole. Second by Anderson Wright.

Unanimous approval.

Status of Work Plan, FY 2015-2016 – City Arborist Beryl Budd

1. Replacement of DOT trees along Emory Street is complete, as of today. The replacement crepe myrtles are larger than the original ones.
2. Number of new trees to be planted throughout the city depends on the budget.
 - a. City Manager Schwartz announced availability of about \$4,000; thus, no more than 20 and no fewer than 10 – depending on caliper. Though larger caliper may be preferred aesthetically, smaller trees are easier to install.
 - b. January and February are the best months for planting.
 - c. Beryl and City Superintendent Jody Reid will determine final planting sites, including the specific request of Mrs. Laura McCanless.
 - d. Many of the city's big trees are in urgent need of crown clearing and pruning.
3. Beryl will check with Bonny Adams, Clerk at the Macon GUFC office to be certain she has received our application for this year's Tree City USA award. (Bonny, rather than Debra Breedlove, is now in charge of receiving Tree City applications.) Chairman Ready has submitted the required documents but has not received a confirmation response.
4. Beryl attended the 2015 GUFC conference in Savannah in November, where Dr. Kathlene Wolf (University of Washington) presented her thorough Urban Forestry/Urban Greening research entitled *Green Cities – Good Health*, as well as information from the US Forest Service division of Urban and Community Forestry: *Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*. Beryl is sending the website links to us.
5. Beryl reported that Connie Head's mother passed away recently. Connie was our first City Arborist. Cheryl will send a card of condolence.

Reports and Updates

1. Emory Street Revitalization Project – city proposal to plant with permission on private property
 - a. No word from Mrs. Grace Phillips. Jody has no word from her son, James.
 - b. Discussion of alternatives, such as a letter to landowners explaining options. No consensus.
2. Mitchell Street Park (Rosenwald School site) – Anderson Wright
 - a. The dogwoods are surviving.
 - b. Removing fallen limbs is an ongoing task.
 - c. Drainage is still a problem at the entrance. Jody will consider solutions.
 - d. We are unsure about remaining time on the city's lease of the property. Jody will talk with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ballard.

3. George Street Park – Jody Reid
 - a. Drainage repair at Wesley Street is in progress. The piping order should be delivered this week.
 - b. Surveying for the trail extension is in progress.
 - c. Gerald Whitley requests a picture of the bench design for the kiosk. Porterdale's kiosk bench design has been recommended. Forest McCanless built the protective display panels for the trail kiosk behind Old Church and could be a source of design for replacing the inadequate ones at George St. Park.
 - d. The dogwood and sourwood have not yet been removed, nor the large pecan pruned; however, some river birch branches were raised.
 - e. It is time to spray the re-growth in the area cleared in July. Privet continues to grow at this time, so spraying with Round-Up will be effective.
 - f. Fletcher street brush removal has not been scheduled.
 - g. No report on replacing the missing balustrade on the Asbury side bridge.
 - h. No report on repair of rail fencing along both sides of the park.
4. Arbor Day, 2016 – Cheryl Ready
 - a. The program is "pretty well set."
Tim Womick will perform and can assist in planting the Arbor Day tree.
Bob will see that the Mayor's proclamation is prepared.
Perhaps Dr. Eloise Carter could provide a video showing the college's tree-planting.
 - b. Planning will continue on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, City Hall, 5:00 p.m.
All interested board members should attend.

Concerns and Announcements

1. Asbury Street Park survey - responses online and on paper have been impressive. The appointed committee will review, assess, and enhance. Then actual design will be sought and considered. Then TPR will receive the plan for review before turning it over to City Council for final decision.
2. Soil continues to erode around the young trees on West Clark Street. Bob offered that City Engineer Robert Jordan may have a solution and could be consulted.
3. Seth Hawkins and Beryl Budd will hold a tree care and pruning workshop (geared to municipalities in the local area) at Newborn City Hall, from 9:00 until 12:00, on Tuesday morning, Dec. 15, 2015.
4. Jody announced that annual utility line clearing will occur in January and February. Jody will determine if a limb overhanging the lines at Anderson's property is from a city tree or his.
5. Leaf fall has been unusually large this year, and thus a highly challenging job for pick-up. Perhaps TPR could create an educational brochure on the value of citizens mowing their leaves and leaving them on the ground for nutrients along with grass clippings. Bob will look into what information may be available.

Adjournment – 6:20 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled TPR Board meeting – February 9, 2016, City Hall, 5:00 p.m.

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary