

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA
Minutes of Meeting April 12, 2016
Community Room, Oxford City Hall

At 5:05: Chairman Ready called The TPR Board meeting to order.

Attendance

Present – Members Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Anderson Wright,
City Arborist Beryl Budd
City Manager Bob Schwartz
City Superintendent Jody Reid

City Grounds Keeper Terry Tankersley – welcomed by Chairman Ready and the Board with appreciation to City Council for approving this new position and for finding such a qualified person to fill it. Mr. Tankersley brings thirty-one years of landscape maintenance and plant nursery experience: “I’ve always loved working out-doors,” he said. Already our city rights-of-way and other properties look better.

Absent – Members Hulon Clemons, Andrea O’Toole, Glenda Stewart
GUFC Community Forester Seth Hawkins
Oxford College Senior Manager of Operations Kendra Mayfield
Oxford College Director of Operations Todd Cain

Approval of Minutes for meeting of February 16, 2016

Motion to approve by Anderson Wright. Second by Cheryl Ready.
Unanimous approval.

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

1. The Georgia Urban Forest Council met with the Oxford College Tree Board in March to discuss hosting the College Canopy Conference, scheduled for September 2016.

Reports and Updates

1. Mitchell Street Park (i.e. Rosenwald School Site) – Anderson Wright
 - a. Replacement dogwood saplings are doing well.
 - b. Removal of fallen sticks and limbs is an ongoing task that is being managed.
 - c. In addition, the Historic Oxford Cemetery requires ongoing removal of seedlings and monitoring of mature trees. Cemetery Foundation has declared that further planting of trees is prohibited due to root damage of graves and monuments. Jody will talk with Foundation Chairman Tom Johnson about removal of current and future seedlings. Beryl explained that at 15 feet a tree is considered “large.”

2. George Street Park – Jody Reid
 - a. Drainage project is complete, and Engineer Robert Jordan reports it is working as intended. LaTrelle suggested that, for educational purposes, a map of the drainage plan should be presented to Council and TPR Board and then filed with TPR archives.
 - b. Gazebo decision – No attention given as yet to request for additional bench – suggestion was made the gazebo seating behind Seney Hall could provide a model. Also, the George Street Park structure is “out-of-level” and needs to be corrected.

3. Asbury Street Park ad hoc committee – Cheryl Ready – Their next meeting is Thursday, April 14, at which time an update will be presented.

4. Tree Purchases and Planting – Jody Reid and Beryl Budd – In this planting cycle, 24 trees were planted. In the last two years, 47 trees were planted.

Pruning Issues and Concerns – We've planted many new trees. Mature trees throughout the city need canopy pruning.

George Street Trail Extension

1. Bob clarified that the more curved layout was approved by layout City Council.
2. LaTrelle expressed dissatisfaction with the entire plan.
3. Cheryl stated that she did not see the need for this particular extension.

Privet/Trash trees, Wesley and Fletcher – Concerns – Cheryl Ready

1. Jody and Bob emphasized that until Robert Jordan completes the right-of-way projects, no further work can proceed, due to the perceived ambiguity of property lines.
2. In the meantime, invasive privet continues to grow back.
3. No indication was given regarding resolution of the issue; so, the aesthetic dilemma of these central city corridors remains unresolved.

Concerns and Announcements

1. Photo Contest – A Tree City USA pamphlet is being created and local photos may be submitted.
2. Beryl announced there is a grant available for restoring tree canopy.
3. Budget – Bob is proposing the same as last year since not all the budgeted amount has been spent to date. Any remaining dollars for maintenance can be spent by June 30, 2016. The Board's consensus for fiscal 2017 is to apply all new funds to crown trimming rather than new trees. This work requires professional expertise. Beryl would initiate the bidding process.
4. On behalf of the TPR Board, LaTrelle expressed appreciation for the newly installed drainage system that diverts rain runoff alongside and under the West Clark Street Trail. Robert Jordan designed the plan and City Crew implemented it.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 6:15

Next Meeting – June 14, 2016

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary