

TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

AGENDA

June 15, 2021 – 5 PM (Via Teleconference)

Meeting Access Information:

Online: [Click Here](#)

Mobile Number: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 928 0988 2032

Passcode: 981130

1. **Opening** – Cheryl Ready, Chair
2. **Membership** – The Mayor and City Council appointed Amos Downs as the newest member of the Board.
3. ***Minutes** – We have attached the minutes for May 18, 2021.
4. **Asbury Street Park** – Ms. Ready will discuss a few of the landscape needs at the park with the Board.
5. **City Tree Inventory** – The Board will continue discussions on the project to update the city's tree inventory.
6. **Emory Street Tree Replacement Project** – The Board will continue their discussion on the project to replace the tree canopy along Emory Street.
7. **Arbor Day Foundation Growth Award** – Ms. Ready will discuss with the Board the criteria for the Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award.
8. **Tree City of the World** – Ms. Ready will discuss with the Board the criteria for earning the Tree City of World designation awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation.
9. **Other Business** – future meeting schedule.
10. **Adjournment**

* Attachments

MEMBERS OF THE TREE BOARD: Cheryl Ready, Chair; Michael Rogers, Vice Chair; Theresa Eady, Secretary; Nakeisha Cummings, Amos Downs, Mike McQuaide, and Anderson Wright.

OXFORD TREES, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Minutes – May 18, 2021

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

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

GUESTS: Amos Downs; Laura Gafnea, Director of Community Relations, Oxford College.

OPENING: At 5:00 PM, Ms. Ready called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Eady, the minutes for the meeting of April 20, 2021 were adopted as amended. The vote was 4-0.

CITY TREE INVENTORY: The Board discussed their goal to update the city's tree inventory list. The Board completed the latest update to the inventory approximately ten years ago. In the recent past, the Board considered using an intern from the University of Georgia (UGA) to help with the project. The Board also explored the option of using an intern from Oxford College.

Ms. Gafnea reported that a student has expressed interest in working with the Board. In addition, she explained that the student would not have a background in forestry. Mr. Budd stated that he would work with the student to complete the update of the inventory. Mr. Budd further stated that the intern would need to have access to ArcMap, a GIS software package from ESRI. Mr. Budd stated that he is working with the Georgia Forestry Commission to seek additional help with the update.

Ms. Gafnea stated that she thought the role for the student intern would include assisting with the data entry and learning the process of developing a tree inventory. In addition, Ms. Gafnea asked whether the Board is open to the idea that the student assist with the inventory past the summer and into the fall semester. The Board agreed that they are open to that idea. Ms. Gafnea will connect with the student to inquire if they are still interested in working the Board during the summer and fall. She will report to the Board next month.

Mr. Hawkins reported that the city completed a tree inventory on paper in 2004. The city updated the inventory in 2010. In addition, he stated that the city later catalogued 306 large trees in a GIS format with specific coordinates and other detailed GIS information. Ms. Ready will ask Mr. Pepper to contact Newton County to request access to their ESRI account.

EMORY STREET TREE REPLACEMENT PROJECT: The Board discussed their project to replace the tree canopy on Emory Street/SR 81. Mr. Budd reported that he sent the Board a revised list of possible planting sites prior to the meeting. The Board will contact the individual homeowners to discuss planting canopy trees on their property.

ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION GROWTH AWARD: Ms. Ready will send the Board the criteria for the Arbor Day Foundation Growth Award. She requested that Board members begin brainstorming ideas on potential submittals for the award.

TREE CITY OF THE WORLD: Ms. Ready shared with the Board that the City of Winterville received the Tree City of the World Designation from the Arbor Day Foundation. She asked if the Board would be interested in pursuing the designation. The Board members will review the application checklist prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Hawkins explained that Tree City of the World designation is an international award to build on the Foundation's Tree City program. It includes an additional requirement of a tree canopy assessment or tree inventory to pair with a tree management plan. Given that the city's current inventory is dated, Mr. Hawkins explained that the Board could submit an i-Tree Canopy report. The report will list the canopy percentage within the city. Mr. Hawkins will help the Board complete the i-Tree Canopy report. The Board will submit the application in the fall.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board requested that Mr. Downs be presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration to appointment on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Ready adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Submitted by:

Theresa Eady, Secretary