

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

Minutes of Meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Community Room, Oxford City Hall

**At 5:00 PM**, Chairman Ready called the meeting to order.

## Attendance

Present – Members: Cheryl Ready, Sallie Robinson, Anderson Wright, Laura McCanless, and Teresa Welch.

Matt Pepper, City Manager

Jody Reid, City Superintendent

Randy Simon and Laura Gafnea, Oxford College

Beryl Budd, City Arborist, GUFC

Absent – Members: Mike Besaw, Sallie Robinson, and Amber Moon.

Seth Hawkins, GUFC Community Forester

**Agenda for meeting:** Upon motion of Ms. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Wright, the agenda for the December 11, 2018 was adopted. The vote was 5-0.

**Minutes of meeting October 9, 2018:** Upon motion of Ms. Welch, seconded by Ms. McCanless, the minutes for the October 9, 2018 were adopted. The vote was 5-0.

## Reports and Updates:

1. Mitchell Street Park – Anderson Wright reported that the members of the Board need to plant 3-4 dogwood trees in the park. In addition, he has been working with Tommy Ballard to negotiate another 10-year lease on the property.
2. George Street Park (Split Rail Fencing) – The Board members discussed replacing the split rail fence at George Street Park. The fence is about 16 years old and has suffered from termite damage. The Board members discussed setting aside money in their budget to replace the fence. They asked Mr. Reid to get a price to replace the fence.

*Upon motion of Ms. McCanless, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Trees, Parks and Recreation Board approved the transfer of funds within their budget to pay for replacing the split rail fencing at George Street Park. The vote was 5-0.*

3. Emory Street Survivors – The Board members discussed that only a few trees planted along the Emory Street right-of-way (ROW) have survived. In addition, they discussed re-planting some trees in front of the Oxford College Organic Farm. Mr. Budd will review the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) approved list of plant species for planting in GDOT ROW and make a recommendation to the Board. The Board will attempt to replace the lost trees this fiscal year.

4. Asbury Street Park – Ms. Ready updated the Board on the recent progress of the Asbury Street Park project. Ms. Ready suggested that the Asbury Street Park Citizens Advisory Committee meet again to develop a recommendation for the park's new name, and how to incorporate the history of the area into a memorial at the park.
5. Yarbrough Oak Replanting Possibilities – The Board members discussed planting one of the Yarbrough Oak seedlings at city hall. Mr. Budd will talk with Jeff Wearing about the idea. In addition, Mr. Budd will get a price to move the seedling from Mr. Wearing's property to city hall.
6. 6153 Emory Street – Ms. Gafnea will talk with Ricardo Horne to ask if Oxford College students are interested in clearing some understory trees and kudzu from the property for a service project on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Lastly, Ms. McCanless, Ms. Ready, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Pepper will prepare a presentation for the welcome sign for the Board members to review at their January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. If approved by the Board, they will then present the recommendation to City Council.
7. City Hall Trees – Ms. McCanless and Mr. Budd updated the Board members regarding the removal of small, invasive trees at city hall several weeks ago. They also discussed removing 2-3 20' trees located at city hall. They will flag the trees for Mr. Reid to review later.

**Pruning Issues:** Mr. Budd is continuing to work on this year's pruning list. He will update the Board as soon as he has the list completed.

**Emory Street Revitalization Plan:** Mr. Budd will accompany James Johnson with Oxford College to the nursery to pick out the trees. The Board members recommended Mr. Budd look for some oak or maple trees. Mr. Pepper will provide Ms. Ready with the list of citizens that would like to participate in the planting project. Since the Board members have seen a low response rate from the letters, they discussed calling residents to inquire about their interest in participating in the project.

**Arbor Day, 2019:** The Board members discussed the following assignments for the 2019 Arbor Day event:

- Ms. Ready distributed the fliers for the essay contest to Flint Hill Elementary and Cousins Middle School. Ms. McCanless will distribute the fliers to the Montessori school in Covington.
- Ms. McCanless will ask the teachers at the Montessori school if they have students interested in performing a play for Arbor Day.
- Ms. Robinson will prepare the program for Arbor Day.
- Oxford College (Ms. Gafnea) will provide the refreshments for Arbor Day.
- Ms. Ready will talk with the local Boy Scout troop about leading the Pledge of Allegiance during the event.
- Ms. Ready, Ms. McCanless, and Ms. Welch will meet at 5 PM on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at city hall to set up for the event.

- The Board members agreed to provide a \$15, \$10, and a \$5 gift card to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place essay contest winners for each grade level, respectively.

*Upon motion of Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Welch, the Trees, Parks and Recreation Board approved the purchase of gift cards in the amounts of \$15, \$10, and a \$5 gift to award essay contest winners for each grade level. The vote was 5-0.*

**Markers for Memorial Trees:** Board members discussed markers for two memorial trees. Mr. Wright mentioned that the Oxford Lions Club might be interested in helping with the markers.

**Concerns and Announcements:**

1. Mr. Budd reported on the GFUC Conference, which took place on Nov.14-15 at Jekyll Island.

Adjournment at 6:23 PM.

Next meeting will be January 8, 2018.