

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA
Minutes of Meeting August 11, 2015
Courtroom, Oxford City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ready at 5:10 p.m.

Attendance – present

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

Approval of Minutes for meeting of June 9, 2015

*Due to lack of quorum of voting members, approval is postponed until next meeting.
Conversation continued according to agenda:*

Work Plan for August-September

A. Tree maintenance

1. Removing deadwood – from Pierce and Whatcoat:

- Complete except for the one tree on Pierce with the honey bees. Cheryl will contact Emory farmer Daniel Parsons for observation and consultation.

2. George St. Park:

- Dogwood and sourwood have died and can be removed by city crew.
- Deadwood in large pecan at SE trail entrance – probably by professional.
- River Birches need pruning – by city crew
- 2015 Arbor Day tree (southern sugar maple) is stressed. Now has bag.
- Arborist will consider viability of large branch overhanging Wesley (near Clark) and also deadwood in large tree on Clark (“Wearing” right-of-way).

3. Emory Street contract – health of trees, watering

- Some have not survived and will be replaced in Nov/Dec. Arborist will evaluate before leaf fall.

B. Storm Damage Plan – Beryl will assist city in preparing this document which should be on hand for reference in the event of substantial storm damage so that FEMA response can be expedited. Bob and Jody will participate in gathering the requisite information.

C. New tree plantings for 2015-16 (including site for Arbor Day tree) – Beryl has the list that Connie Head prepared. Bob asked him to pick the top 20 sites by December 1.

D. George Street Park Split rail fence repair – Rails continue to be dislodged.

1. Jody reports that some posts are rotten and should be replaced.

2. Kiosk cleaning, preservative, further needs – Crew power washed wood; Cheryl and Mike Ready applied preservative liberally; protective covers are inadequate (ill-fitting, unusual screws) and should be replaced. Jody will contact Gerald Whitley for design and cost estimate.

3. Drainage – Robert Jordan, engineer, has completed specs; cost is \$30,000; bids for the work should be sought week of August 17.

E. Mitchell Street Park

1. Jody reports that Anderson has placed timbers to define a parking area.
2. Jody replanted the seedlings Beryl provided to replace those mowed in error.

F. Pocket Parks – Bob offered print-outs (maps attached to filed minutes) of 8 possible sites that were picked after looking at a map of all city owned property. Of those, money is available for 4. Consensus of those in attendance is that City Council should address location preferences, guided by where the kids live, willingness of neighbors, and distribution of sites throughout the city. Further suggestions included inviting site neighbors to attend discussions at separate meetings for each of the sites prioritized by Council and TPR Board; also, an online survey might be a helpful tool for citizen input.

G. Emory Street revitalization plan committee – Cheryl and Andrea have not been able to schedule a visit with Mrs. Grace Phillips, whose property is most exposed after removal of street trees.

H. Clearing of right-of-way encroachment – Fletcher and Wesley Streets – Ten volunteers worked at Wesley Street on Saturday morning, June 27, 2015, from 8:00 until 11:00: the O'Toole family of 5, Anderson and Mary Wright, Beryl Budd, Erik Oliver, LaTrelle Oliver. The arborist's report is attached to these minutes. Jody will proceed with the work as directed by Arborist Budd in mid-September.

I. Arbor Day, 2016, committee – Seth Hawking of GUFCA was attending a conference and so was not in attendance. Planning continues.

J. Concerns and announcements

- Mowing company has been repeatedly directed to remove trash before mowing.
- Some street signs have been straightened.
- Growth award – Beryl can see if the never-received plaque can be acquired now.
- Andrea O'Toole proposed in writing that the site of the future family park include a memorial flag pole and monument/plaque honoring our veterans. See attachment. Cheryl and Beryl reported that grants are available that could help with this project.

K. Conversation ended at 6:20 p.m.

L. Next meeting – October 13, 2015

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary

Attachment #1
Wesley Street TPR pruning – Beryl Budd

To Jody Reid
CC Bob Schwartz LaTrelle Oliver Cheryl Ready

July 17
Jody,

I recently worked as a volunteer with the Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board and others in the cleaning up of the right of way along the old sidewalk along Wesley St. across from the George St. Park. Volunteers cut privet, small trees, vines and other brush along the area. Some of the cut tree stumps were treated with herbicide to help prevent re-sprouting. The primary goals are to reclaim the right of way, expose the old sidewalk, and give existing planted street trees space needed to develop full canopy. The following are my recommendations for continued work along this area to help in meeting these goals:

- Prune large limbs extending over street trees this winter during the dormant season. This may be something the city crew can do with the bucket truck or we can get this done during the next contract pruning project.
- Allow privet and other vegetation to re-sprout during the months of July and August. Spray with a brush killer such as glyphosate (Roundup) about mid September. Larger stems that may re-sprout can be cut again at ground level and then spray the stump immediately with a brush killer.

I will be following up with Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board on this project. Please call if you have any questions.

Beryl Budd
City Arborist
404-357-0827

Attachment # 2
From: Andrea O'Toole

To: Cheryl Ready LaTrelle Oliver

Aug 7 at 8:53 AM

Ladies:

I will not be able to attend our next meeting, as I will be away on business.

If you discuss ideas for the new park, would you please mention my idea (as follows)?

Our Veterans should be honored by our great city. I propose we erect a large flag pole and monument/plaque in honor of all who have served, both past and present. This flag pole can be further utilized in conjunction with our local Boy/Cub Scouts in helping them earn credits toward their goals by holding flag ceremonies. It could also be a focal point when bringing the community together for family fun and picnics with a patriotic Pledge of Allegiance.

The Oxford community can stand proud as we thank those who have served with our hands over our hearts.

(Our Tree City flag could also be proudly displayed during special events)

Thank you for taking the time to read and deliver my proposal.

Best Regards,

Andrea O'Toole
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