

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA
Minutes of Meeting
June 3, 2014
Council Room, Oxford City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ready at 5:00P.M.

Attendance

Present: Board Members Cheryl Ready, Hulon Clemons, LaTrelle Oliver, Simon Perryman, Anderson Wright
City Staff: Manager Bob Schwartz, Supervisor Jody Reid
City Arborist Beryl Budd
GFC Community Forester Joan Scales

Chairman Ready announced City Council's appointment of city's long-time friend and professional colleague, Forester Beryl Budd, as Oxford's new city arborist.

Approval of Minutes for April 6, 2014, meeting

Motion to approve made by Anderson Wright. Motion seconded by Hulon Clemons.

Vote: 4, yes; 0, no. Motion carried.

Bob Schwartz read note he received from retiring City Arborist Connie Head.

Status of Work from January, 2014

Chairman Ready will send to Beryl the current work plan prepared by Connie for his review and assistance in planning for our future tree planting and care.

Reports

- **Emory/Asbury water and sewer project:** City Manager Schwartz reported that the work is progressing. Replacement trees on right-of-way should be planted near year's end; DOT has approved selections made as per included in project contract; revitalization of Emory Street's canopy will address trees for private property when the construction scope of work is complete.
- **Clean-up at Whatcoat Street right-of-way progress:** Drainage requires consultation with engineer. Supervisor Reid stated that the power-washing of picnic tables and brick monument patio has not been tended due to storm catch-up tasks.
- **Mitchell Street Park:** Anderson Wright reported the process of cleaning up the Rosenwald School site is ongoing. City will provide additional small amount of dirt, and volunteer Hulon Clemons will spread as terrain requires. The July 4th float is being prepared off site.
- **George Street Park:** LaTrelle Oliver reported the following – *two new trash receptacles are in place; uprooted redbud on the Wesley Street side during recent storm (apparent cause noted visually: girdling roots); improvement of mowing and*

edging of trail throughout; brick bench pads and signage require constant maintenance (suggest re-doing with more enduring materials, including cast aluminum signs; consult Jim Williams); continual tree pruning required; straightening and securing rootballs of two recently planted trees (require erect planting of all new trees in future); repair bridge balusters; update kiosk content (suggestion made to inventory and map locations of each tree species; Beryl and Joan said they have resources for providing); drainage challenge on west side requires engineer's solution; new tree identification signage (remove those where trees no longer stand); Bob and Jody reported: a contractor is being sought for installing benches in gazebos in both George Street Park and the Historical Cemetery and making other repairs as needed (will come from funds other than TPR's; will begin work in July); bridge repair is on schedule; civil engineer will address drainage).

- **Arbor Day, 2015:** Cheryl announced theme will be History of Trees in Oxford; suggestion made to include Oxford College and invite Emory landscape architect to talk about Emory's tree policy.

Young tree pruning needs, and older trees on Pierce Street

Bob and Jody requested prioritized list including Wesley, Clark, Pierce, and specific trees throughout town. Suggestions were considered for tapping volunteer potential for pruning. Concern was expressed about significant level of expertise required. No final determination was made other than providing the prioritized list.

City's Master Plan Committee – selection of member from TPR Board: LaTrelle Oliver.

Concerns and Announcements:

Request that Tree City flag be flown on City Hall pole.

Joan presented delayed official Arbor Day items; we need to find plaque and former stickers. Website should display fact that Oxford has Tree City USA status.

Joan announced that 2014 GUF conference at the Classic Center in Athens will explore "lessons learned from the ice storm of 2014."

Beryl reminded us that the city may need to update/expand its storm mitigation plan which allows FEMA to respond immediately.

LaTrelle suggested that future city budgets present a line item for *City Tree Maintenance* in addition to Tree Board (#20) – note current lines for City Tree Removal, etc. (#21) and City Trail Maintenance (#22).

Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn made by Simon Perryman, seconded by Anderson Wright.

Vote: 4, yes; 0, no. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Next Meeting – August 12, 2014.

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary