

Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA
Minutes of Meeting
October 8, 2013
Council Meeting Room, Oxford City Hall

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

Attendance

Board members: Chairman Cheryl Ready, Secretary LaTrelle Oliver, Hulon Clemons,
Simon Perryman, Anderson Wright

City Staff: City Supervisor Jody Reid, City Manager Bob Schwartz

Approval of Minutes for August 13, 2013

Motion to approve made by Simon Perryman. Motion seconded by Hulon Clemons.
Unanimous vote to approve: 5, yes; 0, no. Motion carried.

Guests

None of the anticipated guests attended.

Mayor's Committee for the City's 175th Anniversary

All board members had been invited to volunteer. Those accepting and thus formerly appointed by the chairman are Cheryl Ready and Hulon Clemons.

City Logo

Chairman Ready affirmed the city council's new logo by stating that the tree image framed inside the *O* in *Oxford* declares our municipality's support of the values of our substantial tree canopy and our commitment to its ongoing care and increase.

Reports

1. *Water system improvement project for Emory and Asbury Streets* – update given by Supervisor Reid and Manager Schwartz: Detailed plan and drawings by the engineering firm show Arborist Connie Head's specifications for trees to be removed, trees for boring under, plus sites and species for replacement trees. Plans are ready for bidding. The project itself will probably require twelve months and so should be completed around January, 2015. Sidewalk on east of Emory Street will be removed and replaced (at 5' width) – the final step before replanting trees.
2. *Status of RFP for lawn maintenance for city properties* – update given by Manager Schwartz: (see final RFP copy filed with these minutes). As per Arborist Connie Head's advisement (see p. 6 of RFP) *no trimming of trees* will be done by the firm. The RFP is currently being advertised in local papers and will be mailed upon request.
3. *George Street Park* – discussion led by Chairman Ready: **Dead Black Locust** has been removed by city crew, except (at the moment) for remaining trunk. **New LED light** on center power pole functions well but does not illumine gazebo area due to shadow of nearby trees. **Mowing and edging** have improved. **Drainage grates**, one near Wesley Street and one near gazebo, have deteriorated and are hazardous – solution requires engineering expertise. **Signage for ordinance rules of use** are eyesores and negative in tone, traits that undermine the park's

intent. One solution would be to remove the two from their present locations in the Y junctions of the concrete walkway and actually add two more so that there's a sign at each of the four points of entry, which is where users would first encounter the restrictions, rather than well into the park. **Trash can** installed following single incident when item # 1 of Ordinance did not prohibit someone from strewing trash down the walk – suggestions: try to ignore the receptacle in its current location, relocate it to a less prominent place (?), or remove it altogether since the park does not have a picnic area. **The River Birches** require pruning tools and expertise best supplied by a company with arborist expertise. Other issues and opportunities for the park will be discussed later.

4. *Deadwood in other Whatcoat Street trees* – discussion led by Chairman Ready: For the protection of the trees, pedestrians, and property, hazardous deadwood should be removed promptly from three mature oaks that were not included in the recent Willow Oaks project. This work should be directed by a certified arborist and crew.

Ongoing projects

1. *Emory Street Revitalization project* – see Arborist Head's 2010 proposal attached in file with these minutes.
2. *Volunteer ideas for the coming year* – All should notice sites around town for planting new trees, e.g. throughout Oxford Square and Rosenwald School site.

Chairman's applications on behalf of City of Oxford

1. Tree City USA – almost complete, in consultation with GUF Regional Director Joan Scales.
2. Growth Award – soon to be completed, in consultation with City Arborist Connie Head.

Arbor Day Celebration – set date now for ready publication: **February 15 or 22**. Check schedules of Joan Scales and Connie Head. Program will be a holdover of former poorly advertised and poorly attended tree care workshop, which Arborist Head prepared. Manager Schwartz will contact Oxford College regarding possible use of individual microscopes.

Additional Concerns – Make a formal request in Feb/March for FY2014-2015 budget to include a skilled pruning contract for an arborist-directed firm such as Arbor Equity.

Next Meeting – Move from December to November 12, 2013, in order to avoid pressure of Christmas and New Year schedules.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by LaTrelle Oliver. Motion seconded by Hulon Clemons. Unanimous vote to approve: 5, yes; 0, no. Motion carried.

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary