

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

Minutes of Meeting August 13, 2019

Community Room, Oxford City Hall

At 5:15 PM, Chairman Ready called the meeting to order.

Attendance

Present – Members: Cheryl Ready, Laura McCanless, Anderson Wright, and Laura McCanless.

Other attendees: Linda Allen; Beryl Budd, City Arborist, GUFCA; Jody Reid, Utility Superintendent; Jordan Shoemaker, Project Manager, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission; Laura Gafnea, Director of Community Relations, Oxford College.

Agenda for meeting: Upon motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. McCanless, the agenda for the August 13, 2019 meeting was adopted. The vote was 4-0.

Minutes of meeting April 9, 2019: Upon motion of Ms. McCanless, seconded by Mr. Wright, the minutes for the meeting held on April 9, 2019 were adopted. The vote was 4-0.

Discussion of Design for “Welcome” Park: A proposal was presented to Jordan Shoemaker who offered services that NEGRC could provide. The Board asked her to contact the City Manager in about a week to discuss these options.

Reports and Updates:

1. Mitchell Street – Mr. Wright again requested a bench for this park. The Board approved as this was promised as part of the park budget by Mr. Schwartz in 2017.
2. George Street – The Board recommended that we proceed with installation of new split rail fencing to replace broken and aged one that exists. The Board requested that Mr. Reid get a second bid. Mrs. Ready also stated progress of pollinator garden and need to replace some of the trees which were lost recently. Mr. Budd will look for appropriate locations.
3. Asbury Street – In keeping with the Board’s desire to honor this property’s African American heritage, the Board approved the purchase of plaque honoring Augustus C. Wright. Mr. Anderson Wright will work with Mrs. Ready in writing the final document. The Board also approved a “plaque” that recognizes those that visualized the park (Mayor, Council, *ad hoc* committee members).

Pruning Issues: The Board requested Mr. Budd to review list of needs for pruning and approved \$4000 of this year’s budget toward this goal.

Emory Street Revitalization Program: Mr. Budd shared that he has a scheduled visit to Emory’s tree farm to pick out the trees that James Johnson has allotted to us in two past agreements for work on right of way. Mrs. Ready will send out “homeowner” letters again to search for residents who might be receptive to having a “free” tree planted on their property. Mrs. Ready will ask the City Manager to rewrite the “Right-of-Entry Permission Form” necessary for this project.

Moore Street Sidewalk Project: Mrs. Ready updated the board on progress of this project.

Budget: With these expenditures, the Board was updated on amounts left to budget the rest of the year (approximately \$3000).

Growth Award: Along with Tree City application, Mrs. Ready will implement the ideas provided in April by the Board for applying for the Growth Award. This will be in progress by October meeting date.

Adjournment: *Upon motion of Anderson Wright, seconded by Laura McCanless, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 PM. The vote was approved 4-0.*

Next Meeting- October 8, 2019, for Arbor Day planning

Respectfully submitted.

Cheryl Read, Chairman