Trees, Parks, Recreation Board (TPR) – City of Oxford, GA
Minutes of Meeting December 9, 2014
Courtroom, Oxford City Hall

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

Attendance
Present: Members: Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Anderson Wright, Hulon Clemons, Simon Perryman, Andrea O'Toole
City Staff: Manager Bob Schwartz, City Supervisor Jody Reid
City Arborist Beryl Budd
Guests: Chief Ranger Georgia Forestry Commission Mike Sapp, Oxford College Representative Kendra Mayfield
New member approved: At Council Meeting of 12/1/14, Mayor and Council appointed TPR Board Member Andrea O'Toole. The Board welcomes her!

Approval of Minutes for October 14, 2014, meeting
Motion to approve made by Anderson Wright.
Motion seconded by Simon Perryman.
Vote: Yes @4: Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Andrea O'Toole, Simon Perryman, Anderson Wright. No @0. Motion carried.

Status of Work Plan 2014, Beryl
Emory Street trees – As of this afternoon, installation of 20 of the 49 contracted trees for the DOT Emory Street right-of-way replanting project is complete. The remaining trees are on site and will be installed this week. Mulching was not part of the contract and will be provided by City. The species are Natchez crepe myrtles and fringe trees, due to DOT size restrictions.
Pruning – Beryl will submit specs to Bob Schwartz for the outstanding structural pruning needed on mature trees of Whatcoat and Pierce as well as younger trees on Wesley and Richardson. When specs are in hand, bids can be sought.

Reports:
1. Clean-up at Whatcoat Street Right-of-Way:
Council voted on a sidewalk plan. See Council minutes of 12/01/14.

2. Emory Street Water Project – Jody: Essentially complete with the planting of contracted trees.

3. Mitchell Street Park – Anderson: nothing has changed; picking up fallen branches is always required; requests that trees be added back to the plan since dropping them last year; need Natchez crepe myrtles in sunshine at front. Beryl has potted seedlings from 2014 Arbor Day that would do well under the existing canopy.

4. George Street Park – Jody
   a) City Engineer Robert Jordan's report on drainage issues shows that extensive work is required. This work will need Council's authorization and included in City's 2015-2016 budget.
   b) Gazebo bench decision – not mentioned
   c) Trash problem – City crew is now picking up ahead of contracted mowing
   d) Pruning issues – Beryl removed the stubs left from recent improper pruning.
   e) Encroaching bushes and "trash trees" – Removal of encroaching privet on west side of Wesley and also north side of Fletcher is planned.

f) Tree ID markers' removal – All will be removed.
g) Missing baluster on Asbury side of upper bridge – Repair complete.

5. Arbor Day, 2015, is Saturday, Feb. 21
   a) Program – History and legacy of caring for trees in Oxford: city and campus
      - Goals: Celebrate participation in National Arbor Day
        Celebration of City's 175th birthday, University's 178th
        Affirm relationship of City and College/University
      - Participants: arborists, citizenry, college/university
      - Celebrate history and future commitment:
        William H. Murdy Arboretum at George Street Park – marker and plant memorial tree
      - Bob can supply copy of early Oxford College Arbor Day Programs for insert.

   b) Resolution – At the December 1 Council Meeting, a resolution was approved to establish the William H. Murdy arboretum in memory who served as dean of Oxford College, chairman and then member of TPR board, and mayor City of Oxford. Bob will provide a copy for TPR's file.

   c) Committee to plan Arbor Day celebration – all members are welcome. Those volunteering to take responsibility for planning: Beryl, Cheryl, LaTrelle, Kendra.
      - Meet January 13. Prior conversations are ongoing.
      - Kendra and Beryl report that Oxford College has applied for the Tree Campus USA program, which announcement should be made at Arbor Day. Dr. Eloise Carter will be asked to advise Dr. Murdy's favorite tree so Beryl can order it for the Day's planting.
      - The Covington Service Guild will provide seedling give-aways, which Mike Sapp will order.
      - Kendra announced College is happy to provide refreshments.

   d) Regarding scope and design of a memorial marker for the arboretum, Kendra offered of the university design services. Discussion of funding will follow.

6. Tree City USA application – Cheryl: It has been sent in but confirmation of receipt has not come. Beryl will check status, and also of Growth Award.

Concerns and Announcements

Bob reported that Oxford College student Gabrila Korobkov is working on developing the Trees, Parks, and Recreation page for the City website.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by LaTrelle Oliver. Motion seconded by Hulon Clemons. Vote: Yes @4: Cheryl Ready, LaTrelle Oliver, Andrea O'Toole, Simon Perryman, Anderson Wright. No @0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Next Meeting – February 10, 2014

_____

LaTrelle Oliver, Secretary