

Oak Ridge Tree Board

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024

Tree Board Members Present: x John Browning x Austin Goldman x Roy Nydorf
x Nancy Stoudemire Gigi Williams

Town Council Members Present: Jim Kinneman, Mayor, Mike Stone, Mayor Pro Tem
 Jim Harton Ann Schneider Mike Greeson

Town Staff Members Present: Bill Bruce, Town Mgr. Sandra Smith, Town Clerk
 Sean Taylor, Planning Director Sam Anders, Finance Officer Michael Thomas, Town Attorney
xTerry Lannon, Parks & Recreation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Stoudemire called the meeting to order at 10:01 xam pm

Agenda for Thursday February 1, 2024 meeting was reviewed. Motion made to accept the agenda for the February 1, 2024 meeting. Motion seconded and passed (5-0). and unanimously approved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Browning motioned that the minutes from the October 5, 2023 regular meeting be approved. Motion seconded and passed (5-0).

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. Discussion

Old Business:

Roy Nydorf and John Browning gave updates on the visit by Forest Ranger Jimmy Holt to assess the condition of and make recommendations regarding the three loblolly pine stands in Heritage Park. Roy Nydorf stated the three blocks of pines were well managed, thinning was not recommended, and the trees have a potential long life ahead. Forester Holt also advised that an arborist be obtained to give recommendations for pruning the Shumard oak trees under the wires along Linville Road. Terry Lannon requested his crew be

trained in pruning techniques. The Forest Service will continue to act as an advisor if needed. John Browning added:” some of the pine stands were thicker than others”, that there is a recommended 30 foot “construction distance” from any tree trunk. We should leave the pine stands alone. Terry Lannon added that Carolina Mulching Company comes by every 3 years to limb and mulch the pine stands. They are on for 2024.

ORTB confirmed “The Reforestation of The Oak Ridge Campus” document is in place in Town Hall.

5. New Business

Suggestion made to have Guilford County Extension agents Ben Grandom and Mr. Taylor come to Oak Ridge Park and give us a pruning demonstration. Terry Lannon requests his crew also be trained. John Browning will contact Guilford County Extension. Tentative plans are to have the Pruning Workshop on a Tuesday from 9am-12noon in March 2024 with a Thursday as a rain date. Training will include ORTB, Park & Rec, and the community. Plans are to place a half-page ad in the Northwest Observer. Nancy Stoudemire will contact the NW Observer for pricing.

Terry Lannon: There is a large gum tree with extensive rot noted from a core dowel. Lannon recommends the tree be taken down before it becomes a great hazard. The tree is on the west side of the softball field and across the sidewalk and has an adjacent tree in very close proximity. ORTB voted (5-0) to have the gum tree removed.

Terry Lannon noted a need for landscaping improvement at the Town of Oak Ridge Welcome Sign on the Summerfield side of Rt 150. Terry asked Nancy Stoudemire would the Oak Ridge Garden Club be interested in selecting and planting appropriate flowers/shrubs to compliment the sign? The Park & Rec team would be responsible for any watering required. Nancy to follow-up with ORGC.

Election of ORTB Officers:

Roy Nydorf and Austin Goldman were elected as Co-Chairmen for 2024. Nancy Stoudemire elected as Secretary for 2024. Member John Browning appointed for 2024. Terry Lannon is retiring in March 2024 and GiGi Williams will not seek reappointment for 2024. The ORTB thanks both GiGi and Terry for their outstanding service and commitment. The ORTB plans to use the social media platforms to reach out to a potential candidate to fill GiGi’s vacated position.

Budget:

Fiscal year 2024 balance is \$ 1,121.81 which may be utilized through June 30,2024.

Budget request for FY 2025 will be \$ 2500.00 beginning July 1, 2024. Budget would include Heritage Day, Treasure Tree Survey, Tree photos, Printing expenses, etc.

6. Roundtable

Discussion centered on best practices going forward regarding the Shumard oaks under the powerlines along Linville Road. Terry Lannon suggested the ORTB devise 3 Options(recommendations) for the Shumard oaks and present them to Town Council for a decision. (i.e. plant trees on other side of the side walk; bury the powerlines; move the sidewalk).

Question? What to do with the apple & pear trees entering Heritage Park by the fire station? Suggestion is to work them into the planned treescape for the entrance. The OR Fire Dept would manage and water any new trees added to the land managed by the fire department.

Next meeting: March 7, 2024 10:00am Oak Ridge Town Hall

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 × am pm,

Motion passed (5-0)

Respectfully submitted by:

Austin Goldman, Secretary