

# Oak Ridge Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes May 2, 2024

## Tree Board Members Present:

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| x | John Browning            |
| x | Austin Goldman, Co-chair |
| x | Roy Nydorf, Co-chair     |
| x | Nancy Stoudemire         |
|   |                          |

## Town Council Members Present:

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
|   | Mike Greeson              |
|   | Jim Harton                |
| x | Jim Kinneman, Mayor       |
|   | Ann Schneider             |
|   | Mike Stone, Mayor Pro Tem |

## Town Staff Members Present:

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
|   | Sam Anders, Finance Officer         |
| x | Bill Bruce, Manager                 |
| x | Brock Dunigan, Park Director        |
|   | Sandra Smith, Asst. Manager & Clerk |
|   | Sean Taylor, Planner                |

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Roy Nydorf called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roy Nydorf will attend the Town Council meeting and give the monthly report (See discussion items below). The committee has an open seat for a new volunteer. Roy will announce this at the Town Council meeting.

### 5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Old Business:

##### 1. Veteran's memorial:

- a. Tree protection fencing will be installed on 5/6/2024. Brock will ensure fencing is at least 17-20 feet from the stand of pine trees. He will continue to do a daily patrol of the area.
- b. The Committee will make the following recommendations to Town Council:
  - The committee approves construction of the boardwalk, with recommendations to dig holes manually or with minimal equipment within the tree stand.
  - The Committee also discussed asking the construction company to remove debris and replace any damaged trees (If any tree is damaged while work is being done).

##### 2. Pine Plots -Termites:

6-8 pines will need to be removed due to termite damage. Trees for removal have been marked with a double ribbon. Trees that are being monitored for changes are marked with a single ribbon. The committee discussed ways to control termites and these were determined to be cost-prohibitive for such a large area.

##### 3. Oaks on Linville Rd.:

Brock recommended hiring a tree service come through the area before before Asplundh is scheduled to come for Duke Power so we don't have to pay Dillon to come back and prune after Duke cuts back the trees. Duke doesn't always give notice as to when they will come through. The top wire is the main issue (power) with tree height and spread.

Austin proposed planting several islands of trees with benches instead of a long line of trees, perhaps a small distance away from the current sidewalk to allow for shade. There was discussion of moving the sidewalk

(maybe in the future as needed; currently too expensive). The area inside of the walkway is used for overflow parking and in the future may be developed for more fields and/or irrigation. Other smaller trees may be an option in the future to replace Shumarts. Parks & Rec hasn't discussed this issue yet.

Reference: The Town Ordinance specified that 2 canopy trees must be planted per 100 ft.

- Roy made a motion that the Town will evaluate oaks and wires every 3 years. If needed, the Town will hire a professional tree service to prune. (estimated cost \$8-10,000). The motion was seconded by Austin and passed unanimously.

#### 4. River birch/sidewalk issue:

There are several areas where river birch roots are buckling the asphalt pathway near the playing fields. There was discussion on how to keep patrons safe while planning a permanent solution provide a smooth surface for all users. Park staff will use spray paint as a temporary way to alert users of the potential hazard.

Ideas for a permanent solution include digging a trench along sidewalk to remove roots and re-level pathway or rerouting the pathway.

Need to consult expert on how deep to trench and assess possible damage. Reroute pathway – not aesthetically pleasing and probably won't make a difference. Bill will reach out to GSO City Street team to see if they have info/pro to recommend. Replace bad sections of pathway with concrete- will be able to shave it down better than asphalt.

## **B. New Business**

### 1. Pruning of trees

There was discussion and approval for park staff to prune select trees at parking lot near playing fields. This will entail cutting out dead branches and overall shaping.

## **C. Budget Report:**

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.

Nancy will contact the Northwest Observer to see if we can prepay a ½ page Treasure Tree ad for the July issue.

**Next meeting: June 6, 2024 at 10:00 am**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am; the motion was seconded by Nancy.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Stoudemire