

Oak Ridge Tree Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 10:00am –11:00am, Oak Ridge Town Hall, 8315 Linville Rd, Oak Ridge, NC 27310

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

Town Council Members Present: Ann Schneider, Mayor, x Jim Kinneman, Mayor Pro Tem
 George McClellan Martha Pittman Spencer Sullivan

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Stoudemire called the meeting to order at 9:56 xam pm

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gigi Williams that the minutes from the April 6, 2023, regular meeting be approved. Motion seconded and was passed (4-0). Motion made to accept the agenda for the June 1, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded and passed (4-0).

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. Discussion

Nancy Stoudemire suggested that Tree Board members that attend on-line education programs provide a brief summary to the team.

Old Business:

New Business

- **ORTP Corner Tree Planting**
- The Tree Board members, Town Council member Bill Kinneman, and Town Manager Bill Bruce discussed the suitability of the tree species listed on the ORTP Event Center site plan. Bill Bruce clarified that the Tree Board decision making did not extend to plants and shrubs.

Primary site plan concerns were the use of non-native magnolias (), sufficient trees to provide shade for the parking area, and the distance trees would be planted away from the sidewalks.

- First the suitability of the non-native Saucer Magnolia trees was discussed. This tree is not the problem of the traditional magnolias we are accustomed to (large leaves, heavy debris, tall height). The Saucer Magnolia is more tidy, 20-30 ft in height, and has attractive flowers. Gigi Williams will check with Ben Grandon for any suitable non-native species that are available or maintain the Saucer Magnolias in the plan.
- Jim Kinneman elaborated on shade tree plans and parking lot construction for the Event Center . Canopy trees are recommended at 1 tree per 6 parking spaces. We need 75% shade for the parking lot. Also the question was raised, will the tall trees to the east of the parking lot provide additive shading? Jim Kinneman also presented the possible use of Turfstone pavers for the parking lot. Advantages are water permeates down, green color of grass , cooler, but costs are higher initially.
- Concluding: Tree alternatives, possible additional trees for the parking lot, and use of turf stone pavers for the parking lot to be decided prior to the Comprehensive Plan Review by ORTC June 8,2023 meeting at 10:30am
- **Sustainability of the Red Oak and White Oak trees at the Heritage Park entrance.** Austin Goldman presented and utilized the Conservation Suitability Worksheet from a recent online seminar to make an objective recommendation regarding the red oak. Realizing a very low sustainability score of **42** (indicating poor health, significant defects that cannot be abated, and can be expected to decline regardless of management). The red oak and white oak had also been assessed by John Browning and Ben Grandon, who concluded both trees should be removed because both have substantial health /sustainability issues.
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5. Roundtable

Jim Kinneman commented on future direction for the oak trees remaining under the power lines. Should they be removed and replaced with smaller trees? Not a friend of mono-species due to disease, etc., encouraged native species. Should new trees be placed on the other side of the sidewalk, not patterned (, “grove”) , at least 15 feet away from the sidewalks?

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Gigi Williams to present our recommendations to the Town Council at the specially called meeting on June 8th?

Next meeting: August 3, 2023 10:00am Oak Ridge Town Hall

6. ADJOURNMENT

Gigi Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 x am pm,

Motion passed (4-0)

Town Citizen Guest attendee: Ben Willard

Respectfully submitted by:

Austin Goldman, Secretary