

Oak Ridge Tree Board

Revised Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 5, 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 x Roy Nydorf
x Nancy Stoudemire x Gigi Williams

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

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 October 5, 2023 was reviewed and unanimously approved,

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gigi Williams motioned that the minutes from the August 3, 2023 regular meeting be approved. Motion seconded by John Browning and was passed (6-0). Motion made to accept the agenda for the August 3, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded and passed (6-0).

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. Discussion

Old Business:

Oak Ridge Heritage Day view as a success! Attendance was up and the parking lot bwas maxed out with perfect weather! Sixteen(16) persons entered the tree identification contest and one person identified all the trees! Contestants impressed with the grand prize. Roy Nydorf was thanked by the ORTB for providing the leaves utilized at the booth.

The last two (2) hours of Oak Ridge Heritage Day attendee traffic waned. Vendors mainly visited each other or began breaking down their exhibits during these hours. There was also difficulty capturing audiences for the speakers.

Action: Reduce event hours for next Oak Ridge Heritage Day? Other?

New Business

Action needed regarding the pine plantation on the Heritage Park site. The current pines are viewed as near the end of their life span, and too densely planted for good tree health. There are 3 plots of loblolly pine trees located in Heritage Park. The pines have been a favorite location for wedding pictures

Action: Nancy Stoudemire will contact our local forester to view the pines and perhaps attend our next meeting to provide his best recommendation. Also suggested was an arborists view. We are seeking the best long term approach for Heritage Park.

Gigi Williams: Informed the ORTB that there are 4 dead trees on the Oak Ridge Elementary School campus that were initially planted by Oak Ridge Garden Club(ORGC) and now need removal. ORTB along with ORGC agree to meet to have a conversation with the Principal of the Oak Ridge Elementary School. Guilford County would be financially responsible for removing the dead trees. We would be presenting our recommendations for removal. Along with documentation from an arborist that Mr. Whitaker consulted with..

Jim Kinneman: “What is the ORTB plan and budget to replace the “trimmed” trees under the power lines along the sidewalk of Linville Rd”? We should replace them for best appearance.

One suggestion was to plan **now** to establish new trees asap on the north side of the sidewalk so they can achieve a greater height before removing trees from under the powerlines.

Town of Oak Ridge Reforestation Document

A suggestion was made that the document describing” The Reforestation of The Oak Ridge Campus” be placed in the Oak Ridge Town

Tree City Application:

Terry Lannon will followup before next meeting.

Tree Updates:

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Very large pecan tree tree on the Newman property came down. Tree was compromised and not a Treasure Tree.

Alexander Gail (Benbow Merrill Road) has large trees on their property. Possible potential Treasure Trees as we expand our search for new specimens.

Arbor Day 2024. Potential free tree seedlings. Gigi Williams will spearhead search for free sapling giveaways.

5. Roundtable

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Next meeting: November 2, 2023 10:00am Oak Ridge Town Hall

6. ADJOURNMENT

Roy Nydorf moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:43 x am pm,

Gigi Williams seconded.

Motion passed (6-0)

Respectfully submitted by:

Austin Goldman, Secretary