

TREE BOARD

June 7, 2021

The Tree Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for an in person meeting appearing on the 7th day of June 2021, at 4:00 P.M.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Menzie and Members Fagin, Pape, Buthod and Spain

Absent: Members Huffman, Janaway and Tedder-Loffland

City Officials: Tim Vermillion, City Forester

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 3, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Member Pape made the motion and Member Fagin seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Fagin, Buthod, Pape, and Spain

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Fagin made the motion and Member Pape seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Fagin, Buthod, Pape, and Spain

NAY: None

ITEM 4, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE PLANNING FOR TREE BOARD ACTIVITIES

The board discussed the Art Walk and re-establishing a tree board presence at the event. Member Fagin recommended waiting until the fall due to hot summer temperatures. Member Pape asked for a summary of what the Tree board does at the Art Walk. Member Fagin described how the Tree Board uses it as an opportunity to disseminate information about trees and city tree policy, as well as using it as an opportunity to solicit for donations to plant trees.

Member Fagin went on to describe the Tree Photo contest and the Tree Story contest for the board's newer members. Chairmen Menzie describes the award ceremony for the kids who won.

Member Spain asked about the progress of the Master Plan bids that the forester sent to various consultants. The forester explained that there wasn't a budget this time around but that he is still talking with the consultants to come up with alternate ways of moving forward on the Master Plan.

Chairmen Menzie reminded everyone to abide by the Open Meetings act by not using "reply all" for tree board meeting emails because it creates a quorum.

Member Spain suggested that the City be intentional about sending out press releases about good tree planting information this fall in anticipation of a large demand for trees due to the losses experienced during the storms. Chairman Menzie agreed and talked about recycling press releases from the past. Subjects to include would be the timing of planting and good varieties to use.

Finally, Chairmen Menzie discussed his observations about Live Oaks in town and that he is confident many will survive.

ITEM 5, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING A NEW NEIGHBORHOODS PROJECT

The Forester described the history of the former NeighborWoods projects in Norman. In summary, Republic Bank would donate 10,000 per year with a match from the City. Neighborhoods would be identified and the residents were provided an opportunity to participate using "free tree" yard signs with accompanying door hangers to mail into the city.

Member Pape discussed helping with funding this year's program through her knowledge of local, civic minded sources that are tree friendly.

The Forester queried the board for their suggestions on new ways of promoting the program and what areas of town they thought could benefit. Chairmen Menzie reminded everyone that the area should be one that is largely owner occupied because rental owners and the tenants are reluctant to participate. The consensus was that Hall Park would be a good place to start. Member Buthod agreed and supported the choice as she lives in the area and knows that it is largely owner occupied.

ITEM 6, being;

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

The forester discusses the recent high number of complaints against OG&E based off their new policy of removal of all fast growing species that are 12inch diameter or smaller and growing under OG&E lines. The main complaint was that the notification process wasn't clear. The forester met with OG&E to discuss the complaints. They are working on a way to better communicate what is going to happen after they have notified the customer via door knocking and or door hangers. Currently all customer's property receives a knock at the door. If there is no answer, a door hanger is placed on the door. The forester explained that the door hangers are a bit vague and don't communicate that trees may be removed.

ITEM 7, being:

ADJOURNMENT

Chairmen Menzie requested a motion to adjourn. Member Spain moved to adjourn and Member Pape seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members, Fagin, Buthod, Pape, and Spain

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 2nd of August 2021

Don Menzie, Chairperson
