

TREE BOARD

April 5, 2021

The Tree Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for a virtual meeting appearing via video conference on the 5th day of April, 2021, at 4:00 P.M.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Pape, and Tedder-Loffland

Tardy: Member Janaway

Absent: Members Huffman and Spain

City Officials: Tim Vermillion, City Forester
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Pape, and Tedder-Loffland

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 Buthod, Fagin, Pape, and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

Member Janaway arrived at the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

ITEM 4, being:

VOTE ON HISTORIC TREE NOMINATION

Mr. Tim Vermillion, City Forester, said two applications to nominate two trees as a historic tree designations were submitted by Kevin and Christina Kroil, 527 W. Eufaula Street, which is located in a Historical District. He said the first tree is a pecan tree, 47 inches in diameter and 75 feet tall, is located on the property owned by the Kroil Family and the second tree is a burr oak tree, 41.5 inches in diameter and 55 feet tall, also located on the property owned by the Kroil Family. Mr. Vermillion said both trees are structurally sound and have high aesthetic appeal.

The Board discussed and agreed both trees should be designated as a historic.

Member Fagin made the motion and Member Tedder-Loffland seconded to approve the Historic Tree Nominations located at 527 W. E Street. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Janaway, Pape, and Tedder-Loffland
NAY:	None

ITEM 5, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BERRY ROAD TREE PLANTING

Mr. Tim Vermillion, City Forester, said all the Berry Road Tree Planting trees are in the ground except for a couple. He said since planting, other residents in the area have expressed interest in a tree. Member Fagin asked what type of trees have/are being planted and Mr. Vermillion said low growing zelcova, redbud, crabapple, and amber maple. Member Fagin asked where on Berry Road have/are the trees being planted and Mr. Vermillion said south of Lindsey Street to Imhoff Road, on the west side.

Member Pope asked whether the trees are being staked and Mr. Vermillion said yes. Member Janaway asked when the trees were planted and Mr. Vermillion said last week and the week before. Mr. Vermillion said he is looking for more redbud, amber maple, and sprite trees for citizens. Member Fagin asked how many trees have been planted and Mr. Vermillion said 23, but it will be about 26 when all of the trees get planted.

Mr. Vermillion said he is helping three residents who are elderly and/or handicapped water their newly planted trees. Member Fagin asked what funds paid for the Berry Road replanting and Mr. Vermillion said the fine levied to OEC paid for the trees.

Mr. Vermillion said OG&E would like to set up a demonstration plat showing how trees should or should not be planted in regards to planting under power lines. He said they have not selected a demonstration area yet.

ITEM 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Chair Menzie said he is concerned about the crepe myrtles that were affected by the February cold weather. He felt most will be fine, that residents needed to be patient before thinking they need to be removed. Mr. Vermillion, City Forester, agreed and said he was pleased that burford hollies are beginning to leaf out.

Mr. Vermillion said Staff meetings with OG&E were fruitful. He said their methods regarding cutting down and/or trimming trees were very good. Trees that are smaller than 12 inches in diameter and fast growing are removed; however, larger trees and pole size trees were maintained since they are the size that generally causes power outages. Mr. Vermillion said OG&E are printing door hangers so residents will understand when and why they will be removing trees under the electric lines. He said OG&E were very lax in the past and are becoming stricter about trees under electric lines due to all the recent power outages. Chair Menzie said he just wanted to be sure that the trees are trimmed properly and Mr. Vermillion explained the process, stating they are making the proper cut regardless if it goes past the easement line.

Member Fagin felt it was very important to continue educating homeowners about planting appropriate size trees under electric lines or in more appropriate areas. Mr. Vermillion agreed and asked the Board for any ideas

about how to educate the homeowners. Member Fagin said when the Art Walk and Earth Day starts back, setting up a booth educating people on tree plantings as well as other important facts regarding trees, such as pruning, etc., are always successful. He also said the Tree Photo Contest would be another great source of educating the public. Member Pape said the County Extension Board places articles in the newspaper once a week and requested Mr. Vermillion speak to them about placing tree information. Chair Menzie said press releases are a very good educational tool and suggested doing articles about the recent ice storms and freezing weather. Member Fagin said the Tree Story Contest is another good tool and suggested having the students who participate write their stories about what happened to "their" trees during and after the ice storm. He explained the Tree Story Contest to the new members and Member Pape said that was a great idea! Chair Menzie liked the idea as well and said we definitely should do the Tree Story Contest in the fall.

ITEM 7, being:

ADJOURNMENT

Member Tedder-Loffland made the motion and Member Pape seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Janaway, Pape, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 3rd of May 2021

Don Menzie, Chairperson

