

TREE BOARD

October 5, 2020

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 October 2020, at 4:00 P.M.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None (one vacant position)

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

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

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

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

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Huffman made the motion and Member Tedder-Loffland seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

DISCUSS THE COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE'S POTENTIAL TREE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Tim Vermillion, City Forester, said the City Council Oversight Committee discussed amending the ordinance regulating tree removal and adding tree preservation requirements for new construction and/or re-construction. He said Council would like to come up with a tree canopy goal and requested Staff to look at area communities to determine a comparable goal for Norman. Mr. Vermillion explained that canopy goals are dependent upon available planting spot/spaces and analysis is required to determine canopy goals.

ITEM 5, being:

VOTE ON HISTORIC TREE NOMINATIONS

Mr. Tim Vermillion, City Forester, said he received and forwarded two (2) Historic Tree Nominations to the Board. Alex Fierro submitted two pecan trees. After discussion the Board voted 7/1 to accept Mr. Fierro's trees as Historic Trees. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: Member Tedder-Loffland

Mr. Vermillion said Adam and Silke Feltz submitted a pecan tree and an American elm tree. After discussion, the Board voted 8/0 to accept Mr. and Mrs. Feltz's trees as Historic Trees. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

ITEM 6, being:

DISCUSS DAVEY TREE COMPANY'S PROPOSAL TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE CANOPY ASSESSMENTS, PRESERVATION ORDINANCE AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Tim Vermillion, City Forester, said he has reached out to contractor(s) that can assist with writing possible amendments to the Tree Ordinance. He said he will continue researching contractor(s) and bring back information regarding an RFP in the future. Mr. Vermillion said Council would like data gathered for possible amendments and then get comments and input from the Board. He does not think Council wants the existing tree ordinance scrapped, but rather proposals adding the Planning Department to the process. Mr. Vermillion said the stakeholders will need to be brought together to share their experiences on what works and what does not work. He said the process will include public query to determine what works for the homeowners and the City.

ITEM 7, being:

TREE INVENTORY UPDATE

Chairman Menzie said it may be too difficult to have a Tree Story Contest this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact Norman Public Schools have been having virtual classes rather than in person classes.

ITEM 8, being:

DISCUSS TREE SERVICE LICENSING

The forester said that he's heard from tree professionals that Nichols Hills test is harder than the ISA test. It was mentioned that this potential requirement is another tool in the tool box to help ensure high quality practices.

ITEM 9, being:

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 10, being:

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 2nd of November 2020

Don Menzie, Chairperson


