

**City of Oxford Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2022**

Opening

Be it known that the City of Oxford Tree Board did meet in regular session on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 11:00am by phone/video conference with the following present:

Tree Board:

Cowan Hunter, *Co-Chairman*
Hume Bryant, *Co-Chairman*
Ed Croom
Bill Freeman
Mary Hartwell Howorth

Representatives of the City of Oxford:

Mark Levy, Special Projects Director
Ben Requet, Director of Planning
Greg Pinion, Building and Grounds Superintendent
Megan Baker, Building Administrator

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Cowan Hunter moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ed Croom seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cowan Hunter moved to approve the February 2022 Minutes. Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed.

Departmental Issues and Reports

1. Buildings and Grounds

a. Assistance to property owners, hazard trees, etc.

Greg Pinion stated that there have been no removals and no update on this matter.

b. Upcoming tree maintenance, plantings, etc.

Greg Pinion reported tree maintenance and trimming was the only upcoming matter he is aware of at this time.

2. Planning

a. Pending/upcoming development issues, mitigation. etc.

Planning Director Ben Requet stated that he sent a list of ongoing projects and there were only two of interest requiring mitigation. These included The Oxford Commons and The Lamar Phase 4.

b. Update on vacant planner position

Ben Requet stated that the planning position is still vacant and the search is still active for the right fit.

3. Engineering

a. Tree replacements for Jackson Avenue Streetscape

Cowan stated that there were trees on Jackson Avenue that had been recently vandalized. Greg Pinion noted they had already been replaced. Mark Levy requested tree funding to come out of the tree escrow.

Cowan makes a motion to fund the Jackson Avenue replacement trees out of the tree escrow budget. Bill Freeman seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed.

Business

a. Report on HCR tree project

Bill Freeman spoke on the HCR tree project which he said went great. He estimated around 2000 trees were individually potted. He also noted that despite the cold, the event was organized and thoughtfully planned out.

b. Update from Matt Neilson, Green Grove Arborist

Matt expressed his gratitude towards the City of Oxford. Matt recently spoke with a consulting arborist in the Memphis suburb of Germantown and got good input. He also stated that he will have more comments after site visits in a few months; he is excited to get good recommendations to share with the Tree Board and the City of Oxford.

c. Planning for UM Big Event project

Greg Pinion suggested the dog park as a site for the event. April 2nd is the date that was decided for the event and more details will be sent at a later time.

Adjourn

Cowan Hunter made a motion to adjourn. Bill Freeman seconded the motion. All members voted aye; the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.