

**City of Oxford Tree Board
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 2nd, 2023**

Opening

Be it known that the City of Oxford Tree Board did meet in special session on Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. in the City Hall Courtroom with phone/video conference available. The following were present:

Tree Board:

Cowan Hunter, Co-Chairman
Mary Hartwell Howorth
Ed Croom, via video conference
Hume Bryant, Co-Chairman

City Representatives

Ben Requet, Director of Planning

Other Guests:

Alex Ballard, MS Forestry Commission

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cowan Hunter motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed.

Approval of February 2023 Minutes

Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth motioned to approve the February 2023 Minutes. Commissioner Cowan Hunter seconded the motion. All commissioners voted aye; the motion passed.

Departmental Issues and Reports

1. Buildings and Grounds

- a. Tree hazards or problems, Assistance to property owners, etc.*
- b. Update on current conservation work, potential projects, etc.*

Due to Greg Pinion, Superintendent of Building and Grounds, being unable to attend the meeting, this discussion was postponed.

2. Planning

- a. Pending or upcoming development projects/issues*

Ben Requet, Director of Planning, reported regarding Savannah Square, a mixed use project, as well as The Oaks in Oxford Commons. There was discussion regarding The Oaks in Oxford Commons having 11 Phases as well as being in the east portion of Oxford Commons. Another project discussed was The Julep, totaling 850 acres, on Old Taylor Road. Ben indicated this to be a county property, however, City utilities and water would be used, therefore phase one is in the review process with Planning.

Ben also indicated he would like to setup a work session to review ordinances.

3. Engineering / Special Projects

- a. Update on current and potential projects*

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects, was unable to attend this meeting, however, he emailed the Tree Board a report regarding on-going and upcoming projects.

Business

- a. Introduction of Alex Ballard, MS Forestry Commission (Tree City USA)*

Commissioner Hunter introduced Alex Ballard, of MS Forestry Commission, at the meeting. Alex indicated to the Tree Board he would like to be added to the Tree Board email correspondence regarding meetings and minutes. Alex appeared to indicate he'd like to be a liaison between the state and city as well as offered to help with the next Arbor Day celebration and provide education for the community. Cowan indicated he would like to work on improving the Arbor Day program as well as noted it's typically in the Fall. There

was discussion regarding plans to make Arbor Day bigger and better, as well as that he would like to include Alex on future correspondence and agendas for the Tree Board.

b. Update on GIS, tree plotter etc.

Lesley Rakestraw, City of Oxford GIS Analyst, is reported to be working on the tree plotter system and will provide an update when he can.

c. Set date for called meeting (work session) on arborists report

There was discussion by the Tree Board regarding proposed dates for the special work session to discuss the report from Matt Nielson, Green Grove Arborist. The proposed date was Monday, March 27th, from 9 AM – 11 AM in the City Hall Conference Room. Commission Mary Hartwell Howorth motioned to approve, Ed Croom seconded; the motion passed.

Move to Adjourn

Commissioner Cowan Hunter motioned to adjourn. All in favor. Meet adjourned.