

City of Oxford

Tree Board

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Minutes

In Attendance

Cowan Hunter, Ed Croom, Mary Hartwell Howorth, Ben Requet, Mark Levy, James Hirsch, Tympel Harrison

Not in Attendance

Hume Bryant, Nick Matthews, Jaclyn Colemeta, Hollis Green

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:04 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the July 10th 2025 agenda, Commissioner Ed Croom seconded; all aye.

3. Approval of June 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Hunter motioned the Approval of the June 2025 minutes, Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Reports and Issues

a. Building and Grounds

1. Public assistance requests, responses and contacts re trees
Nick Matthews from the Building and Grounds Department was not in attendance for this meeting.
2. Update re approved removal request at 712 S. Lamar
Nick Matthews from the Building and Grounds Department was not in attendance for this meeting.
3. Discuss fall planting info collection
Nick Matthews from the Building and Grounds Department was not in attendance for this meeting.

b. Planning

1. Consider removal request 34" Red Oak on development R-O-W
Joey Moore, Owner/ Senior Engineer of JM Engineering and Design, LLC, proposed to the Tree Board that he would relocate a sidewalk to go around the 34" Road Oak Tree with minimal grading located at the Maison Eight Development. With Planning stating no objections the Tree Board agreed on keeping the tree as long
2. Update re current or pending development issues re tree mitigation
Ben Requet, Director of Planning informed the Tree Board of the sixteen proposals in favor of the Parks and Trails Projects and a plan to work with the Mayor and Board. There was further discussion.

c. Special Projects, Engineering

1. Planned Projects for FY26 – estimates of needed mitigation funding
Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects educated the Tree Board on the finished City Swimming Pool, the completed Police Station with the exception of replacing lost trees, and the ongoing process of working on the new Development Services Building along with landscaping. Levy informed the Tree Board of using the FY26 budget to replace trees at the Harrison Parking Lot, the Parking Garage and the Activity Center along with Downton spaces.

5. Business

1. MFC Updates re Tree Plotter, Saluting Branches etc.
Tympe Harrison, Urban Forester for Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), reminded the Tree Board on the importance of Building and Grounds entering the records of added and removed trees. Tymple informed the Tree Board that Saluting Branches is still on schedule to be held September 17th in order to remove and replant trees.
2. Friends of the Forest July meeting update

The Friends of the Forest indicated that their meeting included a discussion of the comparison of cities mitigation funds regarding to penalties and incentives. There was further discussion.

6. Move to Adjourn

Commissioner Hunter motioned to adjourn this meeting at 12:03 P.M, Commissioner Howorth seconded; all aye.