

City of Oxford

Tree Board

Thursday, October 16th, 2025

Minutes

In Attendance

Cowan Hunter, Mary Hartwell Howorth, Ed Croom, Mark Levy, Nick Matthews, James Hirsch, Tympel Harrison

Not in Attendance

Hume Bryant, Josh White, Ben Requet, Jaclyn Colementa, Hollis Green

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:06 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the October 16th 2025 Agenda, Commissioner Mary Hartwell Howorth seconded; all aye.

3. Approval of September 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Howorth motioned the approval of the September 4th 2025 minutes, Commissioner Hunter seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Issues and Reports

a. Building and Grounds

1. Public assistance requests and responses re trees

Nick Matthews from the Department of Landscape Services informed the Tree Board of a Pine Tree removal on Beanland Drive due to its poor conditions causing a safety hazard. Nick also enlightened the Tree Board on the removal of a dead tree in Pat Lamar Park. Lastly Nick informed the Tree Board of a tree that was professionally trimmed at the County Library located on East Jackson Avenue.

2. Current or upcoming tree work

Nick notified the Tree Board on the plans to plant a Ginkgo Tree (Golden Tree) in Oxford Memorial by the Columbarium along with other various plantings.

3. Landscape Services standup

Nick reminded the Tree Board of the Buildings and Ground split into Facility Maintenance and the Department of Landscape Services that occurred on October 1st.

b. Planning

1. Current or pending development issues re trees, mitigation, etc.

James Hirsh, City Planner, informed the Tree Board of the Convenience Store located on University Avenue that ended up being tabled to due not having approval. James included the continuation of the Villa West units on Thacker Loop that had previously met the mitigation requirements. James indicated several projects that have been approved for mitigation including Oxford Row at the corner of New College Hill and the Golf Club, the Reserve Phase III at Oxford Farms, The Station at Oxford Farms and York Flats on Anchorage Road.

2. Summary of recent sessions re EDG Parks and Trails master planning

James informed the Tree Board of the EDG Parks and Trails meeting would be the start of a long process of data collections and better understandings of the community planning to come back in late January.

c. Special Projects, Engineering

1. Plans and progress so far FY26 projects

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects informed the Tree Board of the upcoming removal and replanting of trees located in Stone Park at the pickleball courts. Mark indicated the possibility of adding a retaining wall at the City Swimming Pool which would require the removal of a few smaller trees. Mark concluded that he plans on beginning the new landscaping project at the Development Services Building in February after the Annex Building Renovation.

5. Business

1. MFC updates re Saluting Branches, Grants, MCTAB, Tree City USA

Tyrel Harrison, Urban Forester for Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), informed the Tree Board of the major turnout at the Saluting Branches Event that occurred on September 17th. Tympel informed the Tree Board that Grant Applications are now open until November 21st, the MCTAB meeting will be December 2nd and 3rd, and Tree City USA will be open September through December.

2. Planning for Oxford Arbor Day 2025

Commissioner Hunter concluded that Oxford Arbor Day should be held Novemeber 20th or 21st at 10:00 A.M. encouraging student and volunteers to participate in the replacement of trees at Lamar Park.

6. Move to Adjourn

Commissioner Hunter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:07, Commissioner Hartwell seconded; all aye.