

City of Oxford

Tree Board

Thursday, September 4th, 2025

Minutes

In Attendance

Cowan Hunter, Ed Croom, Josh White, Nick Matthews, James Hirsh, Tympel Harrison

Not in Attendance

Mary Hartwell Howorth, Hume Bryant, Ben Requet, Greg Pinion, Mark Levy, Jaclyn Colemeta, Hollis Green

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:10 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hunter motioned the approval of the September 4th 2025 agenda, Commissioner Ed Croom seconded; all aye.

3. Approval of July 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Hunter motioned the Approval of the August 2025 minutes, Commissioner Croom seconded; all aye.

4. Departmental Reports and Issues

a. Building and Grounds

1. Tree assistance requests, responses, contacts, etc.

Nick Matthews from the Building and Grounds department informed the Tree Board that no major changes have been made with only minor trimming.

2. Update re removal request at 712 S. Lamar

Nick Matthews informed the Tree Board that the tree located on 712 S. Lamar has been removed successfully.

3. Update and time frame reorganization

Nick Matthews informed the Tree Board that Building and Grounds started their division of responsibilities on September 1st and plan to be fully separated into Maintenance and Landscaping on October 1st. Nick also informed the Tree Board of a design he created for the Tribute Tree Grove. There was further discussion.

b. Planning

1. Updates on current or pending development issues re trees

James Hirsh, City Planner, informed the Tree Board of the Colonnade Crossing development that will include undisturbed areas of existing trees causing the development to be exempt from mitigation requirements. There was further discussion.

c. Special Projects, Engineering

1. FY26 projects tree work still pending/completed

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects was not in attendance of this meeting. There was no discussion.

2. Update re first project planned for FY26

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects was not in attendance of this meeting. There was no discussion.

5. Business

1. MFC final Plans for Saluting Branches event on September 17th

Tympel Harrison, Urban Forester for Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), reminded the Tree Board of the upcoming Saluting Branches project on September 17th that will be held at the Mississippi State Veterans home and the importance of volunteers.

2. Begin Planning for Oxford Arbor Day and consider dates

Commissioner Hunter reminded the Tree Board of the upcoming Oxford Arbor day and with the help of fellow members, concluded that either October 17th or November 21st would be the best dates to choose from.

3. Update from Friends of the Forest group

Commissioner Hunter enlightened the Tree Board on an update from Friends of the Forrest including that the group has met with Erin Smith to discuss city projects in need of improvement.

6. Move to Adjourn

Commissioner Hunter motioned to adjourn at 12:02 P.M., Commissioner Croom seconded; all aye.