

TREE BOARD

September 11, 2023

The Tree Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for a meeting appearing on the 11th day of September 2023, at 4:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Menzie and Members Ackmann, Buthod, Fagin, Janaway & Tedder-Loffland

Absent: Members Barksdale and Spain and One Vacancy

City Officials: Colin Zink, City Forester
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 1, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 7, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Member Tedder-Loffland made the motion and Member Janaway seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair Menzie and Members Ackmann, Buthod, Fagin, Janaway & Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

ITEM 2, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE TREE PHOTO CONTEST PLANNING

The Board discussed and determined to pair the Tree Photo Contest with the Annual Tree Story Contest and the applicants submit artwork and/or photos with their stories. There will be two categories; the first category will be 4th and 5th grades and the second category will be 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Member Tedder-Loffland said encouraging the art piece/picture to the Annual Tree Story Contest may bring in more stories and Member Buthod agreed. Member Tedder-Loffland asked whether applications that include art/pictures should include the media (materials and tools) used by the artist, i.e., pen and ink, art on crayon, etc., and the Board agreed it should. She suggested naming the combined contest, the *City of Norman Tree Story and Art Contest* and the Board agreed. Chair Menzie asked if the applicants could submit only a story, only a picture or both a story and picture. The Board discussed and said applicants definitely need to submit a story and encouraged to submit a picture, whether it is a digital picture or a hand drawn picture. The application needs to state the original art needs to be by the student/applicant. The Board discussed and felt the contest should run from October 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024. Member Tedder-Loffland said she would fine-tune the online application and send the link to the Parks and Recreation Staff so it could be uploaded to the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

ITEM 3, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING "FRIENDS OF TREES" RECOGNITION PROCESS

The Board discussed and agreed Grant Rieger, a local Eagle Scout, who did a tree-planting project at Ruby Grant Park, should be recognized as "Friends of Trees" recipient at the October Park Board Meeting. Chair Menzie said he recently spoke to a local builder who did a planting at Tecumseh Road and I-35 and he will continue to actively look for current development/developers, as well as citizens, who may be performing projects involving trees. Member Buthod said she would also reach out to the Sierra Club regarding tree projects.

ITEM 4, being:

UPDATE REGARDING THE RFP FOR THE URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN AND TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

Mr. Colin Zink, City Forester, said Staff continues to work with Davey Tree Service to complete a ree ordinance update. He said conflicting information has been discovered in the current ordinance, i.e., the citizen is responsible to maintain “their” tree(s), but must get the City’s permission when they want to remove “their” tree(s). Mr. Zink said Staff and Davey Tree Service have discussed creating City of Norman tree zones and leave residential trees out of the ordinance for now. He said Davey Tree Service is looking at options to create a policy to meet the City’s goals. Chair Menzie asked if one of the options are to require tree companies to be licensed and Mr. Zink said yes.

ITEM 5, being:

DISCUSS “WALK IN THE FOREST” EVENT

Mr. Colin Zink, City Forester, said the “Walk in the Forest” event is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 from 8am to 12pm at Ruby Grant Park. He said the Parks and Recreation Department is collaborating with the Oklahoma State Forestry Division on this free family- friendly event. Mr. Zink said the event includes a 90-minute walk throughout the forest areas of the park where various informational stations would be set up. He said participants would learn about erosion, dendrochronology, water quality, invasive species, wildlife and more! Mr. Zink said participants will also be able to listen to readings from the Pioneer Library System, play yard games and watch Geographic Information System (GIS) drone flying demonstrations. The Board discussed and said they would volunteer where needed for this wonderful event.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Fagin made the motion and Member Janaway seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Chair Menzie and Members Ackmann, Buthod, Fagin, Janaway & Tedder-Loffland
NAY:	None

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2023

Don Menzie, Chairperson