

TREE BOARD
Regular Meeting
September 9, 2024

The Tree Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Parks & Recreation Conference Room at the Development Center, on the 9th day of September, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., and notice of the agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, Development Center at 225 N. Webster and on the City website at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Ackmann, Fagin, Barksdale, Janaway, and Spain

Tardy: Chair Menzie

Absent: Members Roux and Tedder-Lofland

City Officials: Colin Zink, City Forester
B.J. Brewer, Admin Tech III

ITEM 1, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 5, 2024 TREE BOARD MINUTES

Member Fagin made the motion and Member Spain seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Members Ackmann, Fagin, Barksdale, Janaway, and Spain

NAY: None

ITEM 2, being:

UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED TREE ORDINANCE AND TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

Mr. Zink, City Forester, said though the Park Board recommended the Tree Ordinance, the City Public Works Department expressed some concerns. Therefore, presenting the Tree Ordinance to City Council will be delayed until the concerns can be resolved. Member Spain asked Mr. Zink if he knew what the concerns were and Mr. Zink replied no.

Mr. Zink said 6,000 trees were inventoried within local parks only, with trees being ranked by maintenance need and condition. From there, Mr. Zink said they will be able to group the trees by species.

Chair Menzie arrived to the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Mr. Zink announced the Urban Forestry Master Plan was beginning this week, with the contract being awarded to Davey, a forestry consulting group. He said they will be able to use the tree inventory information to determine tree development and variety for each city park. Member Fagin said the initial tree inventory Request For Quote (RFQ) indicated the core Norman trees along the street would be inventoried. Mr. Zink said due to limitations,

the budget only allowed the inventory process to include trees in city parks. Member Janaway asked Mr. Zink if trees on non-park property could be inventoried by volunteers. Chair Menzie stated there has been success with volunteers overseeing tree inventory and care-taking in other communities. Mr. Zink said he supports the idea of volunteers inventorying other trees once full access to the Tree Keeper software is established.

ITEM 3, being:

CITY OF NORMAN TREE STORY AND ART CONTEST

Member Fagin said once the online application is updated on the “Tree Story and Art Contest”, he will update the promotional flyer and send it out to the schools via Peach Jar. Chair Menzie asked the Board for prize suggestions, and said he will contact Member Tedder-Loffland to ask her to update the online application.

ITEM 4, being:

UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Chair Menzie asked Mr. Zink if there was an update on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Mr. Zink said the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a document that will include a history of fires in Norman, topographical data showing the highest fire-prone areas, information on wildfire prevention, and the proper response when a wildfire occurs. Member Barksdale asked if controlled burns are included and Mr. Zink said hopefully they will be.

Member Fagin left the meeting at 4:33 pm.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Member Janaway asked Chair Menzie whether or not work was being done on the Tree Photo Contest and Chair Menzie said it is not feasible to do the contest at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Menzie made the motion to adjourn and Member Spain seconded. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair Menzie, Members Ackman, Barksdale, Janaway, and Spain

NAY: None

Passed and approved this _____ of _____, 2024

Don Menzie, Chairperson