

TREE BOARD

March 4, 2024

The Tree Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for a meeting appearing on the 4th day of March 2024, at 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Menzie and Members Ackmann, Buthod, Fagin, Roux, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

Absent: Members Barksdale and Janaway

City Officials: Colin Zink, City Forester
Lisa Griggs, Management Analyst
Suzanne Terry, Park Foundation

ITEM 1, being:

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chair Menzie and Members Ackmann, Buthod, Fagin, Roux, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

ITEM 2, being:

DISCUSS EARTH DAY EVENT – APRIL 21, 2024

Chair Menzie said Earth Day is scheduled on Sunday, April 21st at Reaves Park. He asked for Board Members to help with the event. Ms. Lisa Griggs, Management Analyst and Suzanne Terry with the Park Foundation were in attendance. Ms. Griggs said the Tree Board will need to complete an application for a booth at the Earth Day event and send it to Michele Loudenback in the Utilities Department. She said there would be citizen volunteers to help with the event. Ms. Terry said the Park Foundation will partner with the Tree Board again this year and share a booth at the event. Member Fagin said he would display the Annual Tree Story and Art Contest winners, including their stories and art, at the booth.

Staff has reached out to the State Forestry Division and will pick up 200 tree sapplings to be distributed at Earth Day.

ITEM 3, being:

URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN AND TREE INVENTORY PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Colin Zink, City Forester, updated the Board on the proposed Tree Ordinance and said the Parks and Recreation Director and City Attorney's Office are reviewing the document. He said the City Attorney's office decided rather than Davey doing the Tree Ordinance, Tree Inventory, and the Urban Forest Master Plan under three separate contracts, the City will have one umbrella contract with three addendums, one for each of the jobs. Mr. Zink said the contract has been sent to Davey for review. He said once Staff has reviewed the Ordinance and agreements regarding the Contract with Davey are completed, both will be scheduled as an agenda item for Council consideration.

ITEM 4, being:

REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE CITY OF NORMAN TREE STORY AND ART CONTEST APPLICATIONS

Chair Menzie said 29 applications were submitted for the Annual Tree Story and Art Contest. The Board discussed and ranked the submissions. The following winners were selected:

4th and 5th Grade Winners

1st Place: Evie Stewart, Terra Verde Discovery School, Ms. Moser

2nd Place: Ibrahim Ahmad, Terre Verde Discovery School, Ms. Moser

3rd Place: Izzie Irons, Terre Verde Discovery School, Ms. Moser

6th and 8th Grade Winners

1st Place: Emma de Robles, Terra Verde Discovery School, Mrs. Pearsall

2nd Place: Yara Shanum, Irving Middle School, Ms. Metzger

3rd Place: Deacon Garza, Terra Verde Discovery School, Mrs. Pearsall

The Board discussed and agreed to announce the winners at the Earth Day Event and Member Fagin said he would prepare a poster to be displayed at the event reflecting the winners.

Chair Menzie said Tree Wizard will purchase the gifts and he will make arrangements to deliver them to the winners.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Mr. Raymond Giroux, concerned citizen, was in attendance and presented the idea of citizens buying trees, planting them in parks, and taking care of watering them for the first couple years. The Board discussed and thought this was a good idea, as long as there is an approved species list and locations in parks are approved beforehand. Mr. Colin Zink, City Forester, said data from the Tree Inventory could be used to identify parks that could use additional trees. He said information can be distributed at Second Friday Art Walk and/or in a Park Newsletter to promote the tree planting idea. Ms. Suzanne Terry, Park Foundation, mentioned she ran a similar program called "Share The Shade" about 20 years ago.

ADJOURNMENT

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

YEAH: Chair Menzie and Members Ackmann, Buthod, Fagin, Roux, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2024

Don Menzie, Chairperson
