

TREE BOARD

December 6, 2021

The Tree Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met for a virtual meeting appearing via video conference on the 6th day of December 2021, at 4:00 P.M.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Huffman, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

Tardy: Member Janaway

Absent: Member Pape

City Officials: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation
James Briggs, Park Planner
Karla Sitton, Administrative Tech IV

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Huffman, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Huffman, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

ITEM 4, being:

VOTE ON HISTORIC TREE NOMINATION AT 730 HOOVER STREET

Staff provided the Board with the Historic Tree Application from Larry and Susan Steele who own the property at 730 Hoover Street, Norman, Oklahoma. The application stated the Loblolly Pine Tree has stood the test of

time; is 41 inch DBH and healthy and continues to reveal its beauty. A picture of the tree was included with the application and the Board agreed it was a beautiful tree. After discussion, the Board also agreed the tree should be designated as a historic tree.

Chairman Menzie made the motion and Member Buthod seconded to approve the Historic Tree nomination at 730 Hoover Street. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Huffman, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

Member Janaway arrived at the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

ITEM 5, being:

DISCUSSION REGARDING TREE STORY CONTEST

Chairmen Menzie said he has received approximately 15 stories for the Tree Story Contest. He said he would forward the stories to Staff and Staff can email them out to the Members. Chairman Menzie said the next Tree Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 3, 2022, and asked whether or not everyone would be in attendance. Member Huffman said he will be out of town, but would get his 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for each grade (4th and 5th) to Staff before the meeting. Chairman Menzie said once the winners are chosen, his daughter, Mariah Menzie, will deliver the prizes to them at their school(s).

The Board discussed having all the winners attend and read their stories at the February Tree Board meeting and mentioned serving refreshments. Chairman Menzie said the winners can also come to the Earth Day event in April, 2022, and the Board agreed.

ITEM 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Chairman Menzie said everyone probably already knew about Tim Vermillion, City Forester, leaving the City of Norman and he hopes the City can replace him. Member Tedder-Loffland asked if it was difficult to find a Forester and Chairman Menzie said Mr. Vermillion was very knowledgeable and passionate about the position.

Mr. James Briggs, Park Planner, said Staff is working on an idea to move the Forester to the Planning and Community Development Department; and the Parks and Recreation Department will ask for a Horticulturist. Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the Forester can work closely with the Planning Department which makes sense with residential and/or commercial construction and the Horticulturist can work with the Parks and Recreation Department, specifically, the beautification aspect for Parks and other City Property. He said 80% of Mr. Vermillion's job/tasks were not actually part of his job description or part of the Parks and Recreation Department, i.e., assisting property owners with tree issues and helping with pollinator gardens.

Mr. Briggs said hopefully, the position can be opened up this fiscal year and Mr. Olsen said likely it will be opened after the holidays. Mr. Olsen said the Tree Board meetings will include not only the Parks and

Recreation Staff (Horticulturist), but the Planning Department (Forester) as well. He agreed, that Mr. Vermilion did a great job and did a lot of work for one person.

Member Tedder-Loffland suggested officially kicking off the Tree Photo Contest at the Earth Day event. She suggested the deadline be December, 2022; and said the Tree Photo Contest can be promoted on Facebook, newspapers, and other social outlets. Member Tedder-Loffland asked whether the contest could be open State-wide and the Board agreed it should. Chairman Menzie asked Staff if a Press Release can be done and Mr. Olsen said yes. Member Tedder-Loffland said she would bring back previous information and material regarding the Tree Photo Contest to the January, 2022, meeting. Member Buthod said she would help coordinating the Tree Photo Contest. Member Janaway asked about displaying pictures for the contest and Member Tedder-Loffland said the new Norman Public Library had said pictures could be displayed at their establishment. She said they have a metal wire hanging system on the walls in their stairwell that will work great. Member Janaway asked about displaying the pictures in other places and Member Tedder-Loffland said she would check about hanging them up at local art galleries. Member Fagin said early discussions included displaying the pictures in the back space area at Stash; however, that area is completely full now and is not available. Member Tedder-Loffland said there is a new event space near Stash and she would check with them about having a small art show. Member Fagin wondered if The Depot would like to hold a small art show and Member Tedder-Loffland felt their area is a fairly small space.

Member Fagin said the Tree Board set up a booth at Sea Shanty during the 2nd Friday Art Walk in November and promoted the Tree Story Contest as well as handed out wildflower seeds to the public. He said he liked the location and suggested asking Sea Shanty if the Board could set up there again for future 2nd Friday Art Walks. Member Fagin said the Board can promote winners of the Tree Story Contest and upcoming Tree Photo Contest during this popular City event.

ITEM 7, being:

AJOURNMENT

Member Tedder-Loffland made the motion and Member Spain seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Menzie and Members Buthod, Fagin, Huffman, Janaway, Spain and Tedder-Loffland

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 7th of February 2022

Don Menzie, Chairperson

