

## Winterville Tree Commission

Thurs., May 9, 2024, 7:00 PM  
at the Pittard Park Pavilion

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Brian Herndon (Co-Chair), Brian Binder (Secretary), Caroline Riggins, Dorset Trapnell  
Non-Voting Members: Lea Clark (ex-officio), Mateo Fennell (advisory)

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March 21, 2024 meeting were approved.

#### Arborist Report

No report.

#### Tree Give-Away Project Final Report

Brian B. submitted the final report, and it was approved by the GFC. \$1,000 will be reimbursed to the City.

#### Tree City USA Growth Award

Thanks to Lea, who put in our application for the Growth Award just ahead of the deadline.

#### Marigold Festival

The festival is this Saturday, May 11. Lea will have a GFC table, and she could use some help so she can have a break or two over the course of the day.

► Please stop by to spell Lea (between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM).

#### Winterville Gazette

The deadline for each issue always seems to catch us by surprise. The Gazette is published every 3 months, and we meet every two – that mismatch contributes to the problem.

► Brian H. will try to get with the Gazette people to determine when the deadlines are for future issues.

#### Commemorative Tree Program

There is a request for a Black Walnut, the siting of which is problematic. Mateo suggested that the Pittard Park natural area might be appropriate.

► Susan will work with the donor and the City to identify a suitable site.

Discussion continued about the scarcity of public space for new Commemorative Trees.

Suggestions included the Baptist Church property along the Firefly Trail (this would necessitate cooperation with the church), the median between the FFT and Main St. near Athens Rd. (smaller trees might work here), and Wesley Whitehead Park (which the City leases from the Clarke County School District).

► Brian H. will talk to Susan about identifying (6 – 8) spots for next year's Commemorative Tree plantings. Those spots could be added to our database/map so that prospective donors could see them.

### Commemorative Trees on Private Property

There was a general consensus that allowing Commemorative Trees on private property was a good idea, given the dearth of planting sites in public areas. A draft agreement between the City and tree donors, that had been discussed at our 9/21/23 meeting and modified accordingly, was considered.

- The agreement (with minor modifications) was approved 4-0. [The final version is attached.]
- Brian H. will get Susan's input, and then forward the agreement to Mayor & Council for their review.

### ReLeaf Tree-Giveaway Grant Proposal – II

Another year of funding is available. The deadline for proposals is 7/15/24. As was the case last year, a 1:1 match is required because we're not a disadvantaged community. Lea thought that another proposal similar to our last would be welcomed. We agreed that we should go ahead and apply. There was some discussion about how to get the word out (including signs at the Community Garden, as well as outreach to Winterville Station folks), but that will wait until we hear if we're actually funded. There was also discussion about the timeline for ordering / delivering trees, but in the end we agreed that the schedule we followed last year worked pretty well.

- Brian B. will take the lead in getting the proposal together.
- Lea will check her notes to see if there are any changes from last year's proposal that might be advisable.

### Fall Tree Sale

Given the decision to do another tree give-away, there was a consensus that we not hold a Tree Sale this year.

### Web & Facebook Pages

- Brian B. will get the membership and last year's tree give-away info on our web page updated.

### Information Item -- Upcoming Events of Interest

GA Arborists Assoc. Recreational Climb Party at Winterville's Whitehead Park.

Sat. May 18, 2024 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

GA Tree Council Quarterly Conference: Current and Emerging Threats to the Urban Forest - Wildfire and Pests. Tues. May 21, 2024 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, in Jefferson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.