

## **Winterville Tree Commission**

**Monday, January 25, 2021, 6:00 PM**  
Online via Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Lea Clark (Chair), Brian Binder (Secretary), Bob Bonsall (Treasurer), Dorset Trapnell, Holly Campbell (ex-officio), Mateo Fennell (City Arborist, ex-officio), Seth Hawkins (GA Forestry Commission, ex-officio)

#### **Remarks by the Chair**

Lea thanked everyone for putting their trust in her as Chair; she appreciates the chance to serve.

#### **Approval of Dec 14, 2020 Minutes**

The December 14, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### WTC member status

Mateo is officially the City Arborist for Winterville. [This means he's now an ex-officio member, per the WTC bylaws.]

Bob's second 3-yr term on the WTC was been approved by the City Council.

##### Tree City USA Growth Award

Lea explained that the Growth Award recognizes activities above and beyond the norm, and is awarded via a point system. WTC earned more than enough points last year to qualify.

##### Tree City of the World Designation

It turns out that the lack of a budget explicitly dedicated to trees is not an impediment for us, given the money and volunteer time that is spent on tree-related activities in the City. Furthermore, a canopy survey (which Lea has already completed) can satisfy the inventory requirement. (That survey shows that the tree area in Winterville represents about 57% of the total area, reflecting no net loss of canopy over the past 4 years.) Only 3 cities in GA are currently Tree Cities of the World: Atlanta, Macon, and Sandy Springs. There was unanimous approval to move forward with the application. ► Lea will do this.

##### Arbor Day Planning

Event is scheduled for Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. We will meet by the basketball court and have a socially distanced tree planting in the Wildlife Area. The Bald Cypress (donated by Bob) is in hand and ready to go. The Mayor or his designate will need to read the appropriate proclamation. The following tasks were assigned:

- ▶ Holly: send last year's flyer
- ▶ Anyone who has graphic design skills: revise the flyer
- ▶ Brian: post info about AD or the flyer itself on City's website and/or listserv and/or the WTC web page; post event on City Calendar
- ▶ Bob: advertise AD on Next Door Neighbor (via Wendy)
- ▶ Mateo: see if Wendy will put AD info on the city's sign; ask Dodd for a proclamation and ask him or his delegate to read the proclamation at AD; prepare planting hole & bring the tree
- ▶ Seth: planting demo; bring seedlings for distribution; bring Tree City USA swag if it's not here already
- ▶ Everyone: be there, bring mulch-spreading tools, hope for good weather, take pictures

### **Arborist's Update**

George Chandler Park: Planning is moving forward. Target date for groundbreaking is 3/24/21. There is concern that the large Water Oak adjacent to the blacksmith shop may be taken down, because keeping the tree healthy would involve the loss of 2-3 parking spots. Much discussion about how taking the tree down might be avoided, and about alternative areas that might accommodate additional parking spaces. ▶ Mateo will walk the area with those interested on Friday 1/29 at 1:30 PM.

5-Points Development: There appear to be numerous buyers interested in the ~14 acre parcel north of Athens Rd, behind the Commercial Bank. Mateo didn't know what sort of development was envisioned. Some discussion about ensuring that the Tree Ordinance is enforced (this falls to P&Z), and about the possibility of including parking for the Firefly Trail.

Commemorative Trees: 26 or so commemorative trees sponsored by the American Legion have been planted.

**Our next meeting** is set for Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom [note change of time]. This will be a public meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:20 PM.