

## Winterville Tree Commission

**Mon., June 6, 2022, 5:30 PM**  
in the Pavilion at Pittard Park

### Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Brian Binder (Secretary), Tina Mills, Lea Clark (Ex-officio)

**Meeting Chair:** Tina Mills

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 2, 2022 meeting were approved (2-0).

#### Redistributing Bob Bonsall's responsibilities

- ▶ Tina agreed to take over Bob's stewardship of the Commemorative Tree program. This involves coordinating with Wendy regarding ordering plaques (in cooperation with the Botanical Garden), etc.
- ▶ Brian agreed to maintain the CTP database that Bob developed.

#### Marigold Festival 2022 – Sat. May 14 (information item)

This was quite successful. Thanks to the Fennell family for hanging tree posters around the park, and to Lea for bringing the tent and all sorts of GFC swag (and for manning the booth all day!). We had lots of visitors to our table, and 5 people signed up as being interested in the Tree Commission. Tina subsequently emailed them with information about joining, and invited them to attend our meetings.

#### Workday Sat. 4/23/22 (follow-up)

The City finished our work and mulched a great many remaining Commemorative Trees along the Firefly Trail.

- ▶ We agreed that we should do another workday like this one a few weeks prior to the Marigold Festival next year.

#### Gazette Entry (review)

- ▶ Lea will put together the June entry (for July-Sept. issue). Topics: Arbor Day and work day recap, new plaques on cedars, "watch this space" for fall commemorative tree event (tentative date: Sun. Oct. 16, 2022).
- ▶ Brian will upload pictures from the work day onto the WTC Google drive so Lea can access them.

#### City Arborist

We emailed the Mayor & Council regarding the long-vacant City Arborist position, relayed our 5/2/22 vote recommending Susan Russell for the position, and offered to discuss the matter

further at the 6/7/22 Council Workshop. The email was acknowledged by councilperson Mooney, but as of this writing we haven't heard back about the workshop.

▶ Brian and Tina will attend the workshop.

### City Tree inventory (update)

Holly and her 3 students came to inventory Commemorative Trees on Mon. May 23. Despite serious rain storms they managed to inventory 30 trees. The students' presentation to the WTC has had to be cancelled.

Lea reports that a GFC intern will continue the inventory starting on June 13. The goal is to inventory all the commemorative trees, the trees in the 'developed' part of Pittard Park, and (time permitting) city trees elsewhere. Some discussion about the data to be collected, but a general consensus that Lea can use her judgement.

### Georgia Tree Council Meeting November 2-3 (update)

The Georgia Tree Council Annual Meeting is Nov. 2 and 3 in Rome, GA – scholarships are available for tree board members (covering the cost of registration, some food provided, does not cover travel expenses). Their website says a virtual attendance option will be available. The conference agenda has not been posted yet. When it is, it will be here:

<https://gatrecouncil.org/what-we-do/programs/>.

Lea and Holly are both on the GA Tree Council and will be there. Tina indicated that she will likely attend.

### Storm Water

No progress regarding a program to reduce land owners' county storm water fees linked to tree planting.

▶ General consensus that this could/should be a City Arborist project.

### Seth's Arbor Day Tree (update)

▶ Lea will check on the tree again, but thinks it's OK.

▶ Brian still needs to post Arbor Day pics on the WTC web page.

### Fall Event

We agreed last time to sponsor an event in the fall to honor commemorative tree sponsors. This could involve some tree maintenance and a "tree product potluck."

Tentative date set for Sun., Oct. 16 at the pavilion in Pittard Park.

▶ Tina will check with Wendy about the availability of the pavilion,

▶ and about contact information for commemorative tree sponsors.

[Note: CTP applications for most commemorative trees are available on the WTC Google drive, and include contact info. The CTP database links to these applications.]

### Tree Ordinance

Some discussion about what changes are needed, and how to go about proposing them. As a first step,

► Lea will write up a revised Tree Species List (which is part of the tree ordinance) based on the most recent ACC list, and distribute to the WTC for consideration. We can then vote on recommending this change to Mayor & Council.

### Doctor's Museum inquiry (information item)

Jonathan Scott (museum director) had asked about removing shrubs and possibly moving a birch tree in preparation for planting a medicine garden. Tina had a look and determined that the shrubs are euonymus and can be removed. The Birch is probably too large to be moved, but in any case is part of a commemorative tree grove, and certainly shouldn't be moved without conferring with the donor (the Burch family).

### Nomination of Tina for WTC Chairperson

Tina has been serving as acting chair for the past few months, and was asked about becoming the WTC chairperson. She is willing to do so. Given that there were only 2 voting members at the meeting, it was decided that we would hold a vote via email so everyone could weigh in.

► Brian will email the WTC asking for a vote.

### UGA Tree Walk (information item)

From Lea: The ACC Community Tree Council Education Committee is sponsoring a tree walk on the UGA campus on Sep. 9, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

**Our next meeting** is set for Mon., Sept. 12, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Pittard Park pavilion. (Note change of time.)

► Tina will put together the agenda and run this meeting.

The meeting ended at 6:35 PM.