

## **Winterville Tree Commission**

**Monday, July 12, 2021, 6:00 PM**  
at Bob's House

A planning meeting (non-public, non-voting)

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Lea Clark (Chair), Brian Binder (Secretary), Bob Bonsall (Treasurer), Dorset Trapnell, Mateo Fennell

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the May 17, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### City Arborist

Mateo has stepped down from the Arborist position. General agreement that this is regrettable and represents a loss to Winterville. We are hopeful that a new Arborist will be appointed without delay, as required by the Tree Ordinance, and as a condition for Tree City designation. Mateo would like to re-join the Tree Commission as a voting member – he's on the City Council agenda for 7/13/21, but needs to submit an application. [Mateo was approved as a voting member by the Council on 7/13/21.]

##### October 30 Educational Event (in collaboration with the Athens Tree Council)

The site visit to Sandy Creek Nature Center took place, and everything is on track for that event. Holly and others will lead small groups on tree ID walks. Event time remains to be determined.

##### Additional Education Event: Commemorative Tree Tour

The idea of running this event just after the George Chandler Park dedication was discussed and confirmed. The dedication is scheduled for October 14, 2021. In keeping with the spirit of the day, there was general agreement that we would concentrate on the commemorative trees donated by the Chandler family – the stories of the people who are commemorated as well as the trees themselves. It was suggested that perhaps the Chandler family could provide a paragraph about each person, and that the Mayor would be best suited to read these at the event. ► Bob will sound out the Mayor about the general concept, his participation, and the firmness of the dedication date.

##### Fundraising Idea: Tree Sales (cont.)

Discussion of this idea continued. Lea distributed material about the city of Jefferson program, including the information package that is provided to tree purchasers. The Jefferson program

has been a great success according to Seth and the City Arborist, Susan Russell. As discussed previously, people pre-pay, so there's no problem with money outlay or left-over trees. The program doesn't generate very much money beyond the cost of the trees and associated transport & administration, but has become so popular that the Jefferson city budget now includes about \$35K for the Tree Council. One interesting aspect is the "tree-bate" that's awarded to buyers of eligible trees – a break on their city utility bill. [Note: according to their web site, and contrary to our discussion, the tree-bate is not on power but rather on city utilities – presumably sewer, water, and/or stormwater.] We discussed the idea of awarding some sort of offset from ACC storm water fees tied to this program. If the City gets on board with the idea, perhaps the Mayor could advocate for this with ACC.

### Friends of Pittard Park

Without Mateo as Arborist, its not clear if this is manageable. It was agreed that a work event would be best, and Lea's idea of doing this on MLK day was met with enthusiasm. This might involve planting, clean-up, privet removal, etc. Obviously it needs to be coordinated with Tom and the City.

### Food Forest

It was felt that maintenance and liability issues would limit the enthusiasm for this by the City. Perhaps it could be implemented on green space acquisition property?

### Commemorative Tree for Seth

Holly wants to get a Swamp Chestnut Oak, one of Seth's favorites, but Mateo hasn't found a source. ► Lea will check at Whitehall Forest.

### Tree Commission Year-end Review

Lea submitted the year-end report in writing to the Winterville City Council for their June 8 meeting.

### White Oak on Chandler property

Bob reported that Patsy was worried about the condition of a large white oak, part of which overhangs her house. He brought up the idea of her letting the tree be designated as a Landmark Tree, in return for an annual inspection. However, it was pointed out that any such inspection would require an arborist with a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. Therefore, the Tree Commission couldn't take this on.

**Our next meeting** will be a public meeting. We agreed to schedule it just before a Saturday front porch concert in September – specifically 5:00-6:00 PM on 9/11 or 9/18, depending on availability of the Depot. ► Brian will check on these dates [see below]. ► Mateo agreed to give a talk about his Sycamore *hedge*. There was some discussion about getting a food truck to come by.

► This next meeting is now set for Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021 at 5:00 – 6:00 PM at the Depot.

The meeting ended at approx. 8:20 PM, amidst a torrential downpour.