

Winterville Tree Commission

Mon., May 2, 2022, 5:30 PM
in the Pavilion at Pittard Park

Meeting Minutes

Present: Brian Binder (Secretary), Bob Bonsall (Treasurer), Mateo Fennell, Tina Mills, Dorset Trapnell, Holly Campbell (ex-officio member)
Guest: Marilyn Zumwalt

Meeting Chair: Tina Mills

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Mar. 28, 2022 meeting were approved (4-0).

New Business: Bob Bonsall resignation

Bob informed us that he was resigning from the WTC for personal reasons, effective immediately. This news was greeted with much sadness. Bob is a founding member of the WTC, and one of its driving forces. Someone will need to take over his stewardship of the Commemorative Tree Program, as well as the Commemorative Tree data base (in Excel) that he developed and maintains. That database, plus the new Commemorative Tree pamphlet that he just put together, is available on the WTC google account.

- ▶ Designation of a person (or persons) to take on Bob's responsibilities was tabled.
- ▶ Bob will still take care of ordering the plaques for this year's batch of new trees.
- ▶ His resignation was accepted (4-0), with great regret. We'll miss you Bob!

Marigold Festival 2022 – Sat. May 14

We have a non-profit (free) booth. The plan:

- ▶ Lea will deliver table, chairs, tent and GFC material on Fri evening (5/13) between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. She could use some help.

Things to give out include the new Commemorative Tree Program pamphlet (thanks again Bob!), WTC membership applications, and GFC swag.

- ▶ Tina will talk to Wendy at City Hall about printing the pamphlet and the sign for our booth.

In addition, we have some educational posters that Holly made a few years back that describe the benefits of various trees. These can be hung on the relevant trees around Pittard Park.

- ▶ Brian will deliver those posters to Marilyn for updating/upgrading if necessary. ▶ Marilyn & Tina will hang them around the park on Fri.

- ▶ Schedule for staffing the booth:

Lea	9:00 - 11:00 (includes set-up)
Brian	11:00 - 1:00
Marilyn	1:00 - 3:00
Tina	3:00 - 5:00 (includes break-down)

Workday Sat. 4/23/22 (information item)

This went well – the weather was great and we had about 6 participants total, including Brian, Bob, Tina, Marilyn (with Yonah and Wayah), Kathy, and Bruce. Tina, Bob, and Lea picked up mulch from the GFC on Fri, and on Sat. Bob brought some homemade goodies and Brian brought coffee. We weeded and mulched 13 or 14 trees, from about 8:00 – 10:00 AM.

Gazette Entry

- ▶ 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 (see Fall Event below).
- ▶ Brian will send Lea pictures from the work day.

Stem Guards

Bob had intended to talk to the City about purchasing some, to protect young commemorative trees from weed whacking. But if trees are mulched, they aren't necessary. Along with our work-day mulching, Tom seems to be mulching additional trees. We agreed to wait and see about the need for stem guards.

City Arborist

Lea spoke with Susan Russell (city arborist for Jefferson) about possibly working as the Winterville city arborist. Susan is interested. Lea emailed the Mayor about this, but as of the meeting time, she hadn't heard anything back. There was a consensus that filling the city arborist position is critical for the WTC to function effectively, especially with regard to preserving the City's canopy. ▶ A motion to recommend Susan Russell for the position passed unanimously.

[via email after the meeting: we will relay this vote to the Mayor & Council, and request to be put on the agenda for the June 7 council workshop to discuss.]

- ▶ Brian will write and circulate a draft email to this effect.]

City Tree inventory

Holly's students will enter the Commemorative Trees into an i-Tree Eco platform for a half a day on Mon. May 23. The students will make a presentation to the WTC, hopefully at our June meeting. The data the students collect will serve as the starting point for a citywide tree inventory. This summer, Lea and a GFC intern will add to the inventory.

- ▶ Lea and Holly will figure out the details regarding what data should be collected, etc,

Georgia Tree Council Meeting November 2-3

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. No one else has yet indicated they would like to attend. We'll keep this on the agenda of future meetings as a reminder.

Storm Water

No progress has been made regarding a program to reduce land owners' county storm water fees linked to tree planting. ACC storm water people will have a booth at the Marigold Festival – this may be an opportunity to engage with them. Note that storm water management is the theme for the May 11 GA Tree Council Meeting.

Seth's Arbor Day Tree

Lea had a look at the tree and thinks it's OK.

► Brian will post Arbor Day pics on the WTC web page.

Fall Event

It was proposed that we could sponsor another workday in the fall, to honor commemorative tree sponsors. In addition to working on the trees, we could host a "tree product potluck." This would be a nice way to acknowledge tree sponsors and let them know that we value their trees.

► The motion to plan to do this in Sept. or Oct. of this year passed 4-0.

Tree Ordinance

As potential changes in the tree ordinance discussed at our last meeting have not been advanced, this item was tabled.

Our next meeting is set for Mon., June 6, 2022 at 5:30 PM at the Pittard Park pavilion.

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

The meeting ended at 6:25 PM.