

Winterville Tree Commission

Monday, May 17, 2021, 7:00 PM
Online via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Present: Lea Clark (Chair), Brian Binder (Secretary), Bob Bonsall (Treasurer), Mateo Fennell (City Arborist, ex-officio), Holly Campbell (ex-officio)

Approval of Minutes

The March 22, 2021 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business

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

Edith Jackson, who chairs the Education committee of the ATC and is co-organizing the event with Holly, joined the meeting to give an update. The event is scheduled for Oct. 30, 2021 10:00 AM - about noon at the Sandy Creek Nature Center. Registration will be through the ATC web site, and donations will be requested. (There is no rain date, and it will be made clear that donations will not be refunded in case of rain.) Holly envisions small groups (led by her and hopefully a few other Warnell faculty members) doing tree walks on trails that will offer both lowland and upland species.

Our experience with Winterville tree walks was discussed, particularly with respect to advertising and turn-out. For our most recent event (2019), we had excellent attendance (approx 65-70 people), which was likely driven at least in part by advertising on WUGA and in the Flagpole.

► Edith and Holly are planning on a site visit to scope out trails etc. It would be helpful for WTC members to participate in this. Once the date/time of this visit is set, Edith will email Lea with the information.

Additional Education Event

We had previously talked about doing a tree tour around the commemorative trees and their donors' stories, along with a few other ideas. The idea of scheduling this in conjunction with the Chandler Park dedication was discussed. ► Mateo will find out when the dedication is planned and report back. Once we have that information, we can discuss further at our next meeting, or earlier if need be.

Fundraising Idea: Tree Sales (cont.)

Lea met with the Jefferson City Arborist, Susan Russell. They have a great program that increases tree-awareness and generates some revenue. People pre-pay, so there's no problem

with money outlay or left-over trees. Order forms are included in Jefferson water bills. Orders are placed in the early fall, and trees distributed for planting in the winter. They distribute a big information packet too. Susan (& Seth) would be glad to help us get a similar program up and running. Some discussion about whether ACC Water might help. A related idea: some sort of offset from storm water fees tied to tree-planting (Bob).

June Gazette entry

► Lea needs ideas – please let her know if you have any.

Tree City of the World

Lea uploaded some pics for their video celebrating new member cities.

Upcoming local events of possible interest (Lea)

GAA webinars on tree law 9/14/21 6:15 PM and pesticides 10/12/21 6:15 PM.
All-day pruning workshop at Flinchum's 12/3/21 (starts at 7:30 AM).

Food Forest at Brown's Mill as example to use in Winterville

Some relevant resources (Bob, Lea):

<https://www.conservationfund.org/projects/food-forest-at-browns-mill>

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/22/us/atlanta-free-food-forest-trnd/index.html>

Stacey Farrell (Stacey.Farrell@accgov.com) was involved in Gaines School Rd urban orchard

Concrete Jungle is in Athens now (they will pick and distribute, have a map of fruit/nut trees, small urban farm, can adopt a tree). <https://www.concrete-jungle.org/>

Might commemorative trees be involved? There's some concern that fruit and nut trees require extra maintenance. Friends of Pittard Park and/or the Community Garden might help.

Seth

Holly used part of a recent honorarium to pay for a commemorative tree for Seth, honoring his myriad contributions and enthusiastic support of the WTC. She suggested that we get together with Seth this winter when the tree is planted. General agreement that this is a great idea.

Arborist's Update

GC Park: Construction is going forward. There was some problem with the soil being softer than expected. Mateo is optimistic about the water oak. The contractor (who is tree-friendly) did some vertical mulching, and Mateo will prune when things settle down. The willow by the bookstore was removed and replanted in the wildlife area.

FFT: Route A was chosen by ACC – this follows the RR bed and is safer than the alternatives, but does infringe on some private property and may engender legal challenges. In Winterville, the location of the planned Rotary Club rest area is still under discussion.

Marigold Festival: Planting and especially watering the Marigolds was a huge job.
[They look great – thanks Mateo!]

The ~~Water~~ Willow Oak: Once it leafed out, it revealed itself as a willow oak. So not a champion, but still a big beautiful tree.

Our next meeting is set for Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM at Bob's house. This will be a planning meeting and will involve dinner of some sort.

There was a consensus that given the latest CDC advice, and the fact that all WTC members are fully vaccinated, meeting inside in-person is OK.

The meeting ended at approx. 8:20 PM.