

**Winterville Tree Commission**  
**Thursday, June 13th, 2019**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Averil and Bob Bonsall's Residence

**Present:** Holly Campbell, Bob Bonsall, Averil Bonsall, Roger Cauthen, Lea Clark

**Approval of May 2 Minutes:** The May meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**WTC Webpage update** (Holly)

Holly has taken over the management of the WTC webpage, and has updated its content and photos.

**SPLOST – Final Report** (Bob)

- Winterville is a line item in the ACC SPLOST with a value of \$2.7 million.
- Winterville's SPLOST CAC proposals total \$4.6 million.
- Tree Commission project (Green Space Acquisition) stands a good chance of being accepted.

**Updating the Tree Ordinance**

It was agreed that

- simply changing the wording on the number of Tree Commission members to “no less than three” would be acceptable, but having a minimum (3) and a maximum (7) seemed best.
- The “draft” designation should be removed. This Ordinance was approved by the City Council and is an official document.
- We will approach the Mayor and City Council at the next Council Work Session. Lea will prepare the statement of changes, and will draw up a title page. Holly, as WTC Chair, will present it to the Council.
- We discussed a few people who we might approach to be on the Commission, or act as advisors. We will each consider possible additions, and will discuss names at our next meeting.
- Later in the year we will each go through the Ordinance and suggest edits, and then discuss them at one of our meetings.

**Gazette entry** (due June 15<sup>th</sup>)

- Holly will prepare a Tree Tour review.
- Roger will write a brief report, with photo, of the Commemorative Tree project.

**Next Tree Talk topic**

- Holly suggested that a talk about tree-planting and after-care is much needed. Roger and Seth (and maybe Holly) could present this.
- Suggested date would be a Monday or Tuesday in October – an ideal time of year for planting trees.
- Possible location – Community Center. Plenty of time to discuss this.
- Could have indoor and outdoor sections. Maybe plant a tree.
- Perhaps we could provide some trees – one for each participant, or a raffle for 15 or so trees.
- We could charge a nominal fee, charge for raffle tickets, or have a donations jar. Need to be careful about taking in money. (We are still pursuing a line item in the City budget for \$500.)
- This will be advertised in the September Winterville Gazette.

### **Other community involvement ideas:**

- Holly suggested we ask Winterville residents for their stories about trees that have been important in their lives.
- These could be added to our webpage, perhaps with podcasts.
- It would be possible to link the stories with a tree map, QR code system, and perhaps generate candidates for the Landmark program.
- This could also be linked to a “Tree of the Month (or Quarter)” program, and mark the trees with a ribbon or plaque.
- We could enter a one line introduction to this in the September Gazette.

### **Pittard Park Natural Area**

- This was initiated with a DNR grant for a bird sanctuary and wildflower meadow.
- Lee Hartle and Traci O’Brien, with the mayor at the time, Emily Eisenman, prepared the grant application.
- There were a few intended plantings – shrubbery, plantings for monarchs, and some signage, but the project eventually fizzled.
- Wendy, at City Hall, should have descriptions of the original grant proposals. These would give us the original intent of the project, and help with renovation.
- It might be possible to use TSPLOST funds for trails through this area.
- Suggestions were:
  - Trails to separate different areas
  - Plant pollinator species
  - Enriched and more diverse habitats – woodland, herbaceous plantings, water, wetland trail,
  - Include some mowed areas
  - a labyrinth
  - Sponsored gardens – approach various Winterville groups and organizations e.g. Tree Commission, Community Garden, Civitan, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts
  - A boardwalk across wetlands
  - Better porous hard-surface pathways – necessary for easy walking, strollers, wheelchairs
- This would be a long-term project, needing maintenance management. It would evolve, but cannot be self-perpetuating. Requires strong commitment.
- We could interview Emily for her input.
- We could look for funding through grants and foundations, e.g. DNR, Athens Land Trust, and other outreach efforts.
- To be most successful the plan should be kept simple, with long-term commitment.
- We would need a good description, with a catalog of the current plants.
- The best organization would be for the local government to spearhead this, forming a stakeholder group with interested groups.
- This would plant the idea for green space use when SPLOST discussions come up.

**Next meeting – Thursday, August 1st, 7:30 a.m.** (breakfast at the Bonsalls)