

Minutes

Southport Forestry Committee

August 13, 2024; Indian Trail Meeting Hall

The meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. by the Chair.

Members in Attendance: Scott Len (Chair); Bif Bream; Jerry Donaldson; Fred Fiss; Mark Gooding; Marianne Huntley; Roxie Smith

Administration Representatives & Guests: Carl Carter (Bartlett); Michael McGhee (consulting member); Maureen (Mo) Mehand; Karen Mostellar; Stuart Turille

The highlight of the meeting was a visit from the new City Manager, Stuart Turille. Scott welcomed him and gave a brief history of the committee and its purposes and activities. After the other committee members introduced themselves, Stuart made some brief remarks. He talked about why trees are so valued from a governmental perspective and shared how promoting a green aesthetic life was consistent with his values and goals.

Old/Recurring Business

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed that the minutes of July 9, 2024, be approved with a minor addition.

Ordinance/Permits/City Topics: It was reported that the City has received numerous calls about the Oakton subdivision; however, it was noted that it had been approved before the adoption of the updated rules and regulations.

Member Comments/Questions; Open Forum Period: Fred flagged some of the little trees were in need of trimming; it decided that that would be scheduled in the fall. He also asked about the status of measuring trees in the City rights of way for the Live Oak Society. It was agreed that that would be better done in the fall when the weather was cooler. Fred also asked about what was being done for the two trees on Taylor Field that appeared to be dying. Scott indicated that they had been blown over in the high winds and that replacements would be planted in the next round of tree planting.

In a general discussion, it was noted that the City is essentially in a “react” mode and the question was raised of how the City might incorporate “carrots” as well as “sticks” in its efforts to incentivize developers and homeowners to save trees and plant additional ones beyond the minimum mitigation requirements.

New Business

Bylaws: Scott reported that he has incorporated the comments he had received since the last meeting into the current draft of the Committee’s Bylaws. Fred suggested that the phrase “within a year” be added to Section 5 of Article III. Karen indicated that the Bylaws might not be needed now as all of it was already in the Ordinance. It was decided to go ahead with a vote so that there was a formal record of its having been done. Accordingly, it was moved, seconded and approved that the revised Bylaws be adopted.

Committee Positions: The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Chair and Scott was reappointed by acclamation. Dina has agreed to continue as Secretary and Fred volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. These too were approved by the membership.

Update on Franklin Square Park: Carl reported that Bartlett had completed the “ASAP work” and was awaiting approval of funding for the rest of the project, minus handling fertilization. The cost is projected to be \$43,630.

Scott reminded the group that Dr. Herstine is currently scheduled to deliver his report at 4:00 p.m. on August 20th.

Outreach Campaign: Mo presented two options for the door hanger/info cards. Everyone was enthusiastic about the designs, with a shared preference for the one with “Call Before You Cut” at the top. Scott noted that the Committee has adequate funds in its account to cover the costs.

Tree Care and Tree Removals: Scott reported that a rotted tree had been removed at 106 N. Lord and that a pine had come down in the 1100 block of E. Moore during the 08/07/2024 storm.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at ITMH.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.