



Town of Holly Springs  
Tree Advisory Committee  
Minutes: *May 9, 2022*

Development Services • 128 S. Main Street • P.O. Box 8 • Holly Springs, NC 27540

Agenda Item 1: ROLL CALL

The Tree Advisory Committee met on Monday, May 9, 2022 in Town Hall at 128 South Main Street at 6:00 P.M. when quorum was established.

Members Present: Kelly Oten, Chair  
Rachel Woods, Vice Chair  
Ginny Suever  
Vacant

Members Absent: Russell Lichtenstein

Ex-Officio

Members Present: Adam Orsak  
Aaron Wolff  
Thomas Urquhart

Ex-Officio

Members Absent: Len Lloyd

Staff Present: Elizabeth Goodson  
Cheryl Caines  
Taylor Jackson  
John Mullis  
Brett Gosney

Others Present: None

Agenda Item 2: Agenda Adjustment

No Agenda Adjustments

Agenda Item 3: Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2022 meeting.

Motion by: Rachel Woods

Seconded by: Ginny Suever

Action: *The committee voted in favor of the motion. (3-0)*

Motion to approve the minutes for the February 14, 2022 meeting.

Motion by: Rachel Woods

Seconded by: Ginny Suever

Action: The committee voted in favor of the motion. (3-0)

#### Agenda Item 4: Tree City USA

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No Business

#### Agenda Item 5: Street Tree Replacement Program

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- a. Program Background
- b. Review of Previous Programs
- c. Recommendation for 2022-23
- d. Recommendation for Future Years

Mrs. Caines provided information on the previous programs that TAC has utilized while implementing the Street Tree Replacement Program. In the three years, three different programs have been used to try to find the best approach for this program. Each program had areas in which they worked well and areas in which they were not as successful. The goal of the conversation tonight is to try to find out what would be best for the program moving forward considering what has or has not been successful in past. Mrs. Caines opened up the conversation with discussion of a hybrid program to the board.

Mrs. Oten discussed the hybrid area being a good thought but the amount of split may be difficult. It is agreed that targeted areas are a good idea because it is best.

Mr. Wolff asked about the total amount that awarded last year.

Mrs. Caines stated that \$4,000 was awarded.

Mrs. Goodson stated they have to look into the moving of the funds forward from the previous years.

Mrs. Woods stated that they paid to have data for the tree streets to be collected and it is not being utilized. There are close to 50% of the trees that are sick or dying and the goal of this funds is to reduce the number of sick trees. Mrs. Woods feels the programs have been short sighted and they should discuss what the goals of the programs are. Mrs. Woods thinks that the trees that are potentially hazardous should be handled even if they are not putting any trees into the ground. Mrs. Woods feels relying on residents to inform them of the trees being sick or in need of replacement is not very efficient because they are not reaching out or do not know. Mrs. Woods stated if they must go with the application process, it should be a year-round process so that people are always able to apply for the apply when they have the time. Mrs. Woods stated she is still not hearing anything to improve the hazardous trees that are public safety hazardous.

Mr. Wolff stated that these may be budgetary items that are outside of the Tree Advisory Committee and the budget items would be better brought to Council or by Staff. The goal of the program is to get as many trees in the ground as possible. The other program did have successes but they do need to be fine-tuned with a long-term goal and the rolling applications can help with greater success. The best bang for there buck would be to put trees into the ground with targeted replanting.

Mrs. Oten asked if the money could be used for treatment of the sick trees.

Mrs. Woods stated that the first year was used for treatment and the trees would still need to be treated continuously unless all the trees are treated.

Mr. Taylor stated that all the trees need to be treated otherwise you run the risk of the disease coming back and it being a waste of the treatment.

Mrs. Woods stated that tree grinding or removal could be something that is year-round and helps for the use of staff all year.

Mrs. Goodson stated this can be a way to utilize the money and allow for the tree areas to be prepped before the trees are being put in.

Mrs. Woods stated more money should be put towards targeting until the word gets out that the replacement program is happening. The application process does need adjustment so the word of money is not negative. It does need to be a year-round process in order for the program to be more successful.

Mrs. Caines stated with the targeting they can look at places that do not have trees or looking at the data for the areas that have been hit the worse.

Mrs. Oten stated that the data may be old and if there is a concern about the data being old.

Mrs. Caines stated the data ranges from 2016-2020 and it may be a little older or need updating to properly reflect what is out there although if it was diseased, it would more than likely still be diseased or dead.

Mrs. Oten stated we should diversify the canopy to reduce the amount of Red Maples and it would help to reduce disease spread.

Mrs. Woods asked if there is a way to best find out the best areas that would best help reduce disease spread.

Mrs. Oten stated that with some diseases it does not matter what the trees around it has and has more to due with impervious surface requirements.

Mr. Wolff asked about the goal of the program and if it is to replace sick ones or place new healthy trees.

Mrs. Woods stated what is the point of having a canopy if it is always sick.

Mr. Wolff asked if it is the same cost to replace one sick or plant two new trees? Do they have the same benefits?

Mrs. Goodson state this is something that can be looked into and rank the best decisions for the amount of money that is available.

Mrs. Woods stated that she was under the impression the problem was diseased trees not the number of trees.

Mrs. Oten stated that they need to focus on diversifying the canopy.

Mr. Wolff stated that from Council the best way to handle things is to state a priority and then get out of Staffs way because they are the experts and can implement it. If the goal is to diversify the canopy then they should let staff find the most cost-efficient way to do this.

Mrs. Goodson asked if it is still valuable to have the homeowner request a replacement tree?

Mr. Urquhart stated that the program is nice but 50% may be too much to allocate towards it.

The Board all agrees the application process for homeowners needs to be adjusted.

The Board has agreed that the goal of the program moving forward in the near future should be to diversify the canopy with different avenues of achieving this.

Agenda Item 6: Tree Standards & Guidelines

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No Business

Agenda Item 7: Arbor Day & Education Events

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- a. Arbor Day (lessons learned and revisioning)
- b. Children's Program (Spring/Summer)

Mrs. Caines provided an update on Arbor Day Events and provided an update on the Mascot name (Oakley). Less learned of ordering smaller trees and improving the planting ceremony to a more highly visible area like along with the giveaway.

Mrs. Oten stated it would be good to prepare for next year because they may have been distracted by the street tree replacement program.

Mrs. Caines agreed with this stated they can begin planning the event for next year in a few meetings.

Mrs. Caines asked about the Summer Children's Event.

The Board agreed they should run a children's event over the summer because they are out of school and other free events for children have had success.

Mrs. Caines asked if there would be a way to partner with a parks program to provide this event.

Mrs. Woods stated she does events like this as her job and would be more than welcome to do an event like this. She shared various ideas for the event.

Mrs. Caines shared a thank you letter that she received for the pruning class held earlier this year.

Agenda Item 8: Next Meeting - June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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Agenda Item 9: Other Business

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Mrs. Oten asked about new appointments to the group.

Mrs. Caines stated it is on the Town Council agenda.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

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The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

  
Brett Gosney  
TAC Clerk

