

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025
4:00 PM**

2nd Floor Conference Room Tree Preservation Board

*Charlotte Osborn, Chair
Charlie Riehm, Board Member
Terry Sutton, Board Member
Hayne Thompson, Board Member
Michelle Osborne, Board Member*

A. Call to Order

The Tree Preservation Board was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chair Charlotte Osborn.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Charlotte Osborn	Chair	Present	
Charlie Riehm	Tree Board Member	Present	
Terry Sutton	Tree Board Member	Present	
Hayne Thompson	Tree Board Member	Present	
Michelle Osborne	Tree Board Member	Present	

Other Attendees:

Josh Bare, Bruce Avery, Hunter Rawls, Jalia Killings

B. Presentation of previous meetings minutes for acceptance and acceptance of the agenda as presented for scheduled meeting.

Tree Preservation Board - Tree Preservation Board - Dec 11, 2024 4:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michelle Osborne, Tree Board Member
SECONDER:	Charlie Riehm, Tree Board Member
AYES:	Osborn, Riehm, Sutton, Thompson, Osborne

C. Old Business**Tree Talk Newsletter Article:**

Terry's article "Invasive Vine Management" appeared in the January edition. Hayne's article for February is due Jan 13, and Charlotte will prepare one for March. Michelle to follow for April and Charlie for May.

Pinnacle Park Tree Arboretum Development:

Tracy and Jalia have a great idea of having our ribbon cutting ceremony for the Arboretum on the National Arbor Day date of April 24, 2025. Warmer temps and spring blooms in the park are two good reasons for moving to this date. The Board approved this move unanimously.

New Forest Preserves:

Council is voting to rename the Fickling Pond area "Swenson- Brown Forest Preserve". Terry will interact with PG&T on their plans to designate this area as a nature preserve.

Honoring Old Historic Trees in Norcross:

Our new arborist, Bruce Avery, said he was interested in pursuing a plan for locating the landmark/historic trees in Norcross. Bruce will review the ROW and Parks tree inventories for city-owned trees that would be noteworthy. Bruce would request a proposal from SavATree for consulting time (hourly rate) should it be needed for city or private property trees. We can continue this discussion at the Feb. meeting. Charlotte noted that we can then start to build a history behind each designated tree.

Revised Tree Ordinances:

Bruce requested a copy of the proposed changes and said he would review them "from his conservative viewpoint" and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Removal of the Heritage Pecan Tree in Betty Mauldin Park:

After some discussion, the board approved Michelle's declaration to M&CC regarding TPB's opposition to paving over the former Pecan tree area and keeping this entire area a green space. Charlotte will send to M&CC.

Gateway Tree Planting at N'Ptree and Medlock Bridge:

Hunter reported that the gateway planting will start next week and will evolve with more plantings over time.

Tree Plantings at Summerour Middle:

Hunter has identified several trees to Joey Knight, Gwinnett County Public Schools Grounds Site Project Manager, for planting in Summerour Park. He will follow up with Shahin and others on plans for plantings at Norcross Elementary.

2025 Arbor Day Plans:

Charlotte reviewed Arbor Day celebration plans for February 21st at the Lions Club building front area. Speakers to include Dave Long from the GA Forestry Comm., Mayor Craig Newton, and special speaker to the entire third grade Baldwin Elementary class, Edward Morrow. Michelle is planning goodie bags and cookies to hand out to the children. Need to contact Shahin to see what the original tree planting plans were.

D. New Business**Defining TPB Role with the City of Norcross and PG&T:**

Charlie reviewed his proposal clarifying the TPB's role and charter for working with city staff to maintain/expand tree canopy and to stewardship forested "passive parks", but there was little discussion. Hunter noted he is already working on a management plan with Trees Atlanta for Johnson-Dean Preserve.

E. Johnson Dean Business**New Front Entrance Project:**

Public Works is moving forward with the project, and we still expect to break ground in February. Hunter will choose the plantings and landscaping.

Johnson Dean Trail and Preserve Expansion:

Charlie will attend the 1/16/25 PG&T meeting to ask them to push for restarting negotiations to acquire the church's property adjacent to Johnson Dean Preserve and to explore how the two boards might work together.

F. ADDITIONAL INPUT AND/OR DISCUSSION NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED BY THIS AGENDA**G. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM with a motion to adjourn made by Hayne, seconded by Michelle.