

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, February 12, 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 by Chair Charlotte Osborn

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	

Additional Attendees: Bruce Avery, Hunter Rawls, Debby Rogoff-Ezra

B. Presentation of previous meetings minutes for acceptance and acceptance of the agenda as presented for scheduled meeting.**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Tree Preservation Board – Regular Meeting - Jan 8, 2025 4:00 PM

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

Introduction of new Community Development Director: Deborah Rogoff-Ezra**C. Old Business****Tree Talk Newsletter Article:**

Hayne's article "Trees: Marvels of Nature" appeared in the February edition. Charlotte's article for March, submitted Feb. 10th, is "Your Yard's Trees Connect To Create A World Of Good." Michelle to follow for April and Charlie for May.

Pinnacle Park Tree Arboretum Development:

Plans are still underway for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Arboretum on April 24th. Hunter gave us an update on the ongoing maintenance issues for the park and the invasive species study done by Trees Atlanta. He also noted a kiosk with a demonstration green roof is being planned. Bruce called out Hunter for doing a thorough job on this and his other projects!

Honoring Old Landmark/Historic Trees in Norcross:

Bruce has been buried with his arborist job start-up and asked to delay this item to the March meeting.

Revised Tree Ordinances:

Bruce provided a written update with his comments and thoughts on the proposed ordinance changes, particularly DBH vs. TDU. He needs more time for additional review and input due to new staff. He plans to submit all change requests at one time in a couple of months. We also discussed the use of Tree Bank Funds and need for separate budget line items. Also the DDA properties recently purchased on Wingo, the Tree City application, and recent permit activity.

Removal of the Heritage Pecan Tree in Betty Mauldin Park:

Email declaration was sent to M&CC Jan. 15, 2025, requesting Betty Mauldin Park remain an undisturbed green space area and that the TPB and all citizenry be notified of any plans or proposals that include significant alterations to or destruction of tree-enriched public spaces within the City of Norcross. We have received positive acknowledgement from Mayor and Josh Bare.

Gateway Tree Planting at N'Ptree and Medlock Bridge:

The area was prepared and four trees were selected and planted by Hunter. Search to begin for another gateway area.

Tree Plantings at Norcross Elementary and Summerour Middle:

Hunter has submitted to Joey Knight, Gwinnett County site manager, concept renderings for Summerour Park. No input on Norcross Elementary yet.

2025 Arbor Day Plans:

Plans are in place for the Arbor Day celebration scheduled for February 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lions Club building at Price Place. The entire Baldwin Elementary third grade class will be attending. Speakers are set, and Charlotte and Jalia will select the coloring sheets for the kids and the City will make the copies and purchase the pocket folders.

Defining TPB Role with the City of Norcross:

Charlie will send Board members his proposal clarifying the TPB's role and charter for working with city staff to maintain/expand tree canopy and to stewardship of forest preserves/passive parks.

D. New Business**DDA Properties Recently Purchased On Wingo St.:**

DDA has said they will upgrade the properties and is currently having tree surveys done. Bruce plans to initiate pruning on trees overhanging city property.

Tree Bank

Bruce discussed the status of the Tree Bank and the difficulty in reaching the current balance, which is believed to be approximately \$47,000. There doesn't seem to be a way to arrive at an accurate accounting on the funds spent.

E. Johnson Dean Business**Front entrance development for JD Forest Preserve:**

Public Works, at the advice of the City Attorney, has developed a three-year contract for subcontractors to bid on that would encompass general concrete work, demo, fences, utilities, and general sitework for the City. This work will include the planned front entrance development for JD Forest Preserve. The bid was released on Monday, Feb. 10th, for a 30-day period. Public Works will seek M&CC approval by April 7th. We hope to mobilize the JD work by the last part of April.

The Trees Atlanta invasive species study of JD Forest Preserve:

The study was thorough and has been completed. Hunter prepared a memo on the findings and promised to provide a couple of hard copies to the TPB. Bruce noted that they will be reviewing a proposal to the City by Trees Atlanta for invasive plant removal.

Johnson Dean Trail and Extension:

Charlie's discussion with PG&T Board resulted in he and Kassie Diehl being requested to contact the church authorities to see their views on this issue.

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

None.

G. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm with a motion to adjourn made by Charlie, seconded by Michelle.

TPB Next Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025, 4pm, at the City Hall in the Conference Room