

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 14, 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 meeting was called to order at 4:15 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	Absent	
Michelle Osborne	Tree Board Member	Absent	

Other Attendees:
Bruce Avery, City Arborist

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

Tree Preservation Board – Regular Meeting - Apr 9, 2025 4:00 PM

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

C. Old Business

Tree Talk Newsletter Article:

Bruce has requested that he take on the Tree Talk newsletter articles for the next several months. We noted that two tree articles appeared in the May newsletter.

Honoring Old Landmark/Historic Trees in Norcross:

Charlie will look at the GA Tree Council’s Landmark & Historic Tree Register, Trees Atlanta and similar sites to provide suggested language for our TPB program at the next meeting. It was agreed the classification should be community-wide and the trees to be honored should be designated by the TPB.

Revised Tree Ordinances:

Bruce will prepare his recommendation for the UDO Draft Revisions using TPB member comments and including new recompense amounts for tree removals, and review it with his management and TPB members. He passed out a work sheet with five questions requesting TPB member input regarding tree removal limitations, recompense amounts and TDU requirements (see attached).

Betty Mauldin Park and DDA Properties on Wingo St.:

A Zoning Board meeting next week will address plans for parking spaces in this area and a new parking study is underway.

City Gateway Tree Plantings:

We are still looking for an update from Hunter on city gateway landscaping improvements, and suggestions for the next gateway to be landscaped.

Tree Plantings at Norcross Elementary and Summerour Middle:

Approved tree plantings will happen at both schools in the late fall.

Tree Bank:

Finance has not yet confirmed the amount in the Tree Bank Fund.

Tree Inventory Actions:

Bruce has updated the inventory of hazardous tree removals identified in the City owned Tree Inventory. Reference his spread sheet listing the Tier One High Risk trees. Next step is to get the Community Update handout ready for distribution to the homeowner addresses on the list and TPB members to visit these addresses.

D. New Business**Tree Violations and Citations:**

Bruce updated us on the progress of his investigation and developing a process to penalize the unauthorized removal of specimen trees and tree removal companies working without permits. Bruce was asked to prepare a policy, including the recompense amounts charged to developers on tree loss, that is one of the toughest for Tree Cities and present it to TPB next month. Again, he has asked for input from TPB on suggested recompense amounts. His estimate for today's prices is \$2,500 per TDU.

Beaver Ruin Roadside Crape Myrtle Plantings:

Our Community Improvement Development group instigated the planting of about 250 Crape Myrtles along Beaver Ruin Rd. from Indian Trail to Buford Hwy. We have no input from them on why this poor choice of tree, why so many, and why there was no collaboration with the City of Norcross?

Budget for 2025 - 2026:

A preliminary budget prepared by Charlotte was passed around and discussed. It was suggested to include \$1,000 for Historic Tree markers. The total amount came to \$28,200 which included our board attendance pay of \$4,500 which we have since learned is included in a separate area of the City's budget.

E. Johnson Dean Business**Front Entrance Developments:**

Council approved the Public Works recommended contractor for the three-year contract that encompasses general concrete work, demo, fences, utilities and general sitework for the City at the April 17th Council meeting. It is anticipated that the JD front entrance work will begin next week!

Invasive Species Removal:

Hunter reminded us that the \$35,000 budgeted for the invasive plant removal program at J-D Preserve by Trees Atlanta is for a five-year period. He will keep us informed of his budget request success coming up in August. Charlie has asked him to discuss the management plans he worked out with Madison of Trees Atlanta for J-D and Pinnacle Park, and whether they could develop similar plans for Brown Preserve and Pinnacle Preserve, with an emphasis on treating them as "passive parks."

Johnson Dean Expansion:

Charlie gave us an update on his meeting with PG&T member Kassie Diehl and Aurore Murphy of the Church. Charlotte and Terry also did a walkthrough of the entire preserve with Len Housley and Donny Sullivan to familiarize them with the park boundaries and the erosion problems excess runoff has created. Charlie then met with Len Housley, who asked for a proposal for buying the property that he could present to council. Charlie will send one next week. Charlotte is tasked with obtaining a clear(er) drawing of JD and the church's property boundaries in the forest.

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

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025, 4pm, at City Hall in the Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM.