

City of Norcross

*65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071*



Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025
4:00 PM**

**2nd Floor Conference Room
Tree Preservation Board**

Charlotte Osborn, Chair

Charlie Riehm

Terry Sutton

Hayne Thompson

Michelle Osborne

A. Call to Order 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	Present	

Tree Preservation Board was called to order at 4:15 PM by Chair Charlotte Osborn

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 - Tree Preservation Board - Jul 9, 2025 4:00 PM

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

C. Old Business

Honoring Landmark/Historic Trees in Norcross:

Charlie asked TPB members to support a proposal for starting a Historic Tree Registry for Norcross by each person nominating a tree that they believe should be in the Registry, and then following up with a meeting with the tree owner to plan how to protect that particular tree. Please review <https://gatrecouncil.org/what-we-do/programs/landmark-historic-tree-register.html>

Revised Tree Ordinances:

Bruce anticipates it will take 4 to 6 weeks of meeting with Deborah and Tracy to go over the entire ordinance revisions he is proposing. After that it will go to legal for comments and further refinements. Then he can share changes with the TPB. Charlotte noted that the big Pecan specimen tree (39" dbh) on Sunset that the owner paid to remove might have been saved if we could have negotiated with them! TPB should push for the right to negotiate with owners when a significant removal is requested. The goal would be to "not remove excess canopy".

Betty Mauldin Park and DDA Properties on Wingo St.:

On the Council meeting agenda of August 4th, regarding the Columbia Engineering rendering of the proposed add'l parking around and behind City Hall, a TPB Input and Consideration for Council was included in the agenda packet. Prepared by TPB members and Bruce Avery. It was strongly worded that the members of volunteer boards and citizenry in general be included in the design and planning of this project. A request for a parking deck as an alternate solution to parking problems was promoted.

City Gateway Tree Plantings and Maintenance:

It is apparent that the planned City Greenway corridor along Mitchell Rd. is going to require a great deal of invasive plant removals, landscaping and tree plantings, though the plans for Greenway Trail design are not complete. Mitchell Rd. is a county ROW, but Gwinnett County has shown no interest in doing maintenance. Norcross Public Works has done some mowing and cutting back invasive plant encroachment especially at neighborhood intersections. Len Housley is talking with Gwinnett County to encourage them to do more. Meanwhile the city is doing some of the work, and Hunter is speaking with Trees Atlanta on doing some invasive removal.

PG&T has proposed engaging the TPB to support a native planting plan. We are pleased to be included in the planning and development.

Beaver Ruin Roadside Crape Myrtle Plantings:

It is apparent the dead and dying tree plantings along Beaver Ruin Rd. have been or are being removed. There has been no reply from CID on our open questions to them: Are there plans for replacements? Could the TPB have the opportunity to suggest other more suitable trees as replacements? How can we work with the CID on future "beautification" projects?

Tree Bank:

We have no new input from the Finance Dept. other than the \$52,375. We have no history of deposits or charges against this account. This account has been loosely managed, and we need a process to manage this better going forward and a formal balance established for this account. This account is intended to fund tree planting, mostly done by public works. Public works has been paying for trees and planting from operation budgets and not being reimbursed by the tree bank. We suggested Charlotte write a letter to Eric Johnson saying that TPB understood the balance was about \$75K...

2025 - 2026 Proposed Budget Status:

Bruce will try to update us next month on the TPB proposed Budget status for the coming year. Charlie noted the new city budget goes into effect on September 1, so they must have a number by now.

Tree Removal Actions on DD&H Trees Identified in the Tree Inventory:

Holcomb Bridge ROW tree removal is complete. Add'l pruning work is still needed. Need an update on what area is next.

Proposed City-Wide Urban Forestry Management Plan:

SavATree is preparing suggestions on what we need to consider and costs. Bruce has been reviewing the last 5 years of tree removal permits and land development permits to gather more detail on canopy coverage loss. He feels this is a necessary compilation that can be used as foundational information for a future urban forest management plan.

TPB Annual Update Report to M&CC:

Charlotte presented the TPB Chairman's annual report to M&CC on July 22 at the Policy Work Session. She will send a copy to TPB members. Along with the speech, a graphic was prepared by Bruce and shown to Council illustrating an estimated 22 acres loss of tree canopy in the past 24 months. 22 Acres! Charlie asked what plans we have to replace this canopy loss?

Green Roof Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting At Pinnacle Park:

The demonstration green roof at Pinnacle Park ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 18th at the park. It was put on by Norcross Sustainability and City staff. Jim and Martha Scarborough and Cathy Nau were honored for all of their early conservation work in Norcross.

Invitation by the Georgia Tree Council to Apply for the Georgia ReLeaf Grant:

The deadline for application for this grant was missed (July 31st). The note was sent to Craig instead of TPB or Bruce. We need to inform GTC with an address for future notes.

D. New Business

None.

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

Construction of the new front entrance is progressing despite all of the rain. Most of the concrete work and all of the gravel areas are complete.

Invasive Species Removal:

Hunter to update on the invasive plant removals at Pinnacle Park. JD to follow when time and budget permit.

Johnson Dean Expansion:

A meeting was held August 7th at the Presbyterian Church attended by Len, Charlie, Charlotte, Mike Jones, Aurore Murphy (church facility mgr.) and Father Edgar to discuss the City's purchase of approximately 3 acres of church-owned property for the purpose of expanding Johnson Dean Preserve and the trail. With the church members approval, Len agreed to obtain a survey and appraisal of the property with the understanding we would meet again to settle on the price and iron out details. Charlie will provide minutes from this

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2025, at 4pm, at City Hall in the Council Room.