

## **Tree Committee Meeting**

April 14, 2022

10:09 a.m.

Delchamps Room

Members present: May Moss Parker, Craig Tappan, Patrick Waldrop, Joanne Hogan, Paul Fontenot, Jamie Rollins. Absent: Skip Jones, Corey Martin and Knox McMurphy. Gayle Fogarty took minutes. Guest: Justin Britt, P.E., Project Manager, Dewberry Engineers, Inc.; Hunter Simmons, Planning Director (arrived at 10:30 a.m.)

Paul Fontenot called the meeting to order. The minutes from the meeting held on January 13, 2022 were reviewed and approved, motioned by May Moss Parker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig Tappan and unanimously carried.

### **New Business:**

Justin Britt, P.E., Project Manager, Dewberry Engineers, Inc informed the committee that a 75in Oak tree was cut down in the Laurelbrook development unintentionally, he stated that there was miscommunication, and they want to correct the mistake. (see attached photos & development master plan rendering) Mr. Britt stated that this development is outside the permitting area, but wanted to obtain the recommendation of the Tree Committee on a replacement. There was general discussion among the committee members, and it was recommended to replace the 75in tree with some mature Live Oaks and several smaller ones.

There was general discussion among the tree committee members and Hunter Simmons regarding the tree ordinance in the CBD and trees in the ROW.

Hunter Simmons requested input from the tree committee regarding nuisance trees as part of the tree ordinance, Jamie Rollins requested that the portion of the ordinance pertaining to nuisance trees needs to be updated.

Hunter Simmons suggested looking at the fees associated with the heritage trees in the ordinance.

Jamie Rollins informed the committee that a tree risk assessment was completed on the Live Oak located at 200 South Section Street near the Lutheran Church, he shared the finding with the committee. (See attached assessment)

Patrick Waldrop mentioned the invasive trees at Knoll Park, there was general discussion among the committee members, and Jamie stated that he would talk with Jessica Walker, Special Projects Manager about posting something to social media regarding invasive tree education for the public.

### **Old Business:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

**Tree Risk Assessment:**

55.8 Live Oak at 200 S. Section St.

Traq Rating Risk is **LOW**

**ISSUES FOUND:**

There appears to have had major root damage over the years. It has resulted in a sparse canopy. The tree is in what is called "stress mode". This is a period that a tree is more susceptible to pest and fungal attacks. The canopy will not improve without creating greater health in the root system. This can be improved but it takes some time.

*Dead wood-* There is some dead branches that are 4 inches or less that should be pruned to lessen likelihood of failure.

*Smooth Patch Disease-* Small patches of fungi that causes the bark to slough off leaving a very smooth textured bark underneath. Does not impact the life of the tree and sometimes can be outgrown as the tree matures.

*Termites-* There was a few termite trails seen. I would set out bait traps plus treat with a chemical barrier around the trunk. Treatment can last up to a year.

*Root flare-* The root flare has too much soil on it. It should be cleared off and inspected. Bricks and asphalt was seen buried next to root flare.

*Volunteer tree-* There is a tree growing in a cavity. That should be removed.

**HEALTH SUGGESTIONS:**

*Growth Regulator-* This chemical mimics a steroid in the tree. It slows canopy growth and doubles the fibrous root system over the next few years.

*Soil Sample-* Checking the pH and nutrient levels. Acidic soils tend to bind macro nutrients and clay particles together.

*Soil Remediation-* Application of lime and fertilizer according to soil sample results.

*Liquefied Carbon Blend-* Liquefied carbon with humates such as seaweed. Help to create of more favorable environment for mycorrhizae.

*Aeration/Humus-* Vertical aeration into the soil and back filling with humus helps to decompact the soil and create an optimal environment for root growth.

Please review the proposal. You can use the link below to review and accept online:

[https://app.singleops.com/visits/1en5n1v1k1mi8ux6xr2oazm4huk/public\\_present\\_proposal](https://app.singleops.com/visits/1en5n1v1k1mi8ux6xr2oazm4huk/public_present_proposal)

**Donavan Ballard (Plant Health Care Specialist/Certified Arborist)**

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**ISA Certified Arborist #SO-10095A-**

**TRAQ Certified (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification-ISA)**

**Master Gardener-Alabama-**

**Pond Design and Installation- Aquascape Designs**

**Level 2 Alabama Certified Urban Forestry AUFA-**

**Alabama Licensed Landscape Designer**

**Certified Gardener- Royal Horticultural Society of England-**

**Certified in Landscape lighting and Design- Vista Lighting**

**Certified Aerial Rescue- TCIA**

**Certified Landscape Management- Auburn Univ/Alabama Green Industry**

**Bachelor of Science in Health and Wellness -Avila University-**

**Ornamental Turf & Pest Control Licensed- Dept of Ag Alabama**