

**City of Hot Springs**  
**Urban Forestry Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**  
**Annex Conference Room, City Hall**

**Members Attending:**

Ed French, James Moore, and Roxana Wallace

**City of Hot Springs Staff Attending:** Allen Bates (Urban Forester), Ronald Sievwright (Public Works Director), Freddy Padilla (Urban Forestry Crew), and Candace Shepherd (Public Works)

The meeting was called to order by Ed French at 5:30 p.m.

**Committee Business Section:**

1. *Roll call*
2. *Approval of Agenda:* The agenda was approved.
3. *Approval of Minutes:* The minutes from the October meeting were approved.
4. *Recognition of Guests:* None

**New Business:**

5. *TV Hill and Malvern Rain Garden Tree Plantings:*  
Allen reported that roughly another mile is being added to the Greenway from Golf Links Road to TV Hill Road with the Jean Wallace trailhead at TV Hill. He is putting up a visual screening for the last two houses. It will be staggered using 21 Brodie Cedars to provide an instant screening. Another Elm tree will be planted in the rain garden on Malvern near the Police station to replace the one that was hit. There are also nine Lacebark Elms scheduled to be planted on Malvern Avenue as part of the Malvern Gateway project that is being extended to Church Street.
6. *Okame Cherries at Family Park:*  
Allen reported he has scheduled another planting consisting of nine Okame Cherry trees at Family Park. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of our Sister City program with Hanamaki, Japan. He was asked to plant a few cherry trees out there in a sitting area. He chose these trees because of the tree height restrictions around the airport. This project is scheduled to be finished by October when the Sister City will visit.
7. *Church Street Parking Lot Landscape:*  
Allen reported that the parking lot that runs along Church Street between Malvern Avenue and Broadway Terrace is being redone. There will be a rain garden in the middle and additional trees along the perimeter. A large Sycamore will be spaded in on the Malvern Avenue side, a couple of American Hollies will be planted on each side of the entrance, and some Elm trees will be planted between the light poles.
8. *Spade Trees at Wade and Rice Parks:*  
Allen reported that he is spading in three Shumard Oaks in a large open area that has no shade at Wade Park. At Rice Park, there was a large Hackberry that split. Entergy took it down because it was close to a powerline. Allen plans to spade in a Willow Oak to replace that tree.

### **Sub-Committee Reports Section:**

9. *Marketing and Education:*

Allen explained his part in the Stormwater Certification training program. Hot Springs is the only city in Arkansas that trains Stormwater Certification. Allen is responsible for covering the portion of the training about tree preservation at the construction site. He oversees the Landscape Ordinance for the City and covers the Landscape code in the class.

Allen used to be the County Agent and oversaw the Master Gardener program for several years. He put together their training. He still teaches a section of this training on trees for the Arkansas landscape. He has a class he is teaching this Thursday. He will cover topics like how to select trees, how to plant them, and how to use trees for shade to help save on electric bills.

10. *Tree City USA:*

Allen has applied for our 23<sup>rd</sup> year as a Tree City. The Arkansas Forestry Commission has to approve the application first, and then they send it to the Arbor Day Foundation.

### **Other Business:**

11. *Consider Urban Forestry Working Crew Report:*

Freddy reported that they had a new hire show up today, so they almost have a full crew now. They had the Ouachita River Unit from Malvern, normally about 30 individuals, come and help for two days. They got the Greenway pruned back pretty good and the creek cleaned from the Transportation Depot to approximately Hollywood Avenue. They are done with bushhogging and most of the pruning. They will begin pruning Grand Avenue in a couple of weeks. Allen reported that they lost one small tree on Grand Avenue and possibly two more. He also said that there are five dead pine trees at Entergy Park and one dead pine at Hill Wheatley Park.

12. *Consider Advisory Committee Members' Items for Discussion:*

Roxana asked if there were any plans to add trees at Linden Park. Allen said the City is expanding the playground there and will need to remove a few pine trees. When they finish the playground, he will go in and put some big oak trees around it. Roxana suggested that he look at adding some trees around the perimeter of the soccer field as well.

### **Adjournment:**

Ed adjourned meeting at 6:05 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 25th, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Annex Conference room.