

**CITY OF CONWAY
TREE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

Present: Jacqueline Kurlowski, McKenzie Jordan, Troy Roehm, Duc Watts, Gerry Wallace, Jamie McLain, Coker Hall

Staff: Katie Dennis, Planning Concierge; Marcus Cohen, IT; Wanda Lilly, Arborist

Other: Linda Koretic

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at approximately 5:07 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

McLain made a motion to accept the minutes as written and seconded by Kurlowski to approve the May 24, 2023 minutes. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jordan made a motion to elect Coker Hall as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Kurlowski. Jordan made a motion to close nominations seconded by McLain. The vote in favor to close was unanimous. The motion carried. The vote in favor to elect Coker Hall as Vice Chairperson was unanimous. The motion Carried.

Jordan made a motion to re-elect Gerry Wallace as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Watts. Jordan made a motion to close nominations seconded by McLain. The vote in favor to close was unanimous. The motion carried. The vote in favor to elect Gerry Wallace as Chairperson was unanimous. The motion carried.

IV. TREE MITIGATION REQUESTS

A. 1501 9th Ave (Falk Family Chiropractic & Wellness): The applicant, Daniel Falk, is requesting approval to remove a landmark tree, from the property located at 1501 9th Ave. (PIN 338-14-03-0031)

Dennis stated the applicant, Daniel Falk, is requesting approval to remove a landmark tree, from the property located at 1501 9th Ave.

The tree in question is located in middle back of the parcel. The tree is a Quercus Virginiana (Live Oak) and measures 3' 3" in diameter at breast height.

This tree has one limb that extends over the roof of the building. It is staffs understanding that the applicant would like the tree removed due to the state of this limb as well as wanting to build on to his existing business in the future.

The applicant provided a letter from an arborist, written on January 6th of 2023 who stated "On the date of my observation several large sections of the tree canopy were bare. The largest of the dead section was overhanging the clinic." He continued with this recommendation "Because there are multiple dead large diameter leaders, it is likely that the tree is in an acute decline, and it is not likely to benefit from corrective pruning and or fertilizing. For these reasons, I recommend removal of the tree in question."

Following the request to remove the tree City Arborist, Wanda Lilly, inspected the tree and provided the

following as her diagnosis and recommendation.

“It appears that the major limb of concern exhibits signs that there may be a root issue. Potentially caused during construction of an addition to the building in 2018. If any portion of the root was severed at that time, it could explain what has caused the limb to be in a state of stress. Time is necessary to establish the extent of the damage and to allow the tree the opportunity to recover. My recommendation is to wait and make a more professional decision after spring when the tree has time to recover in a warmer climate.”

To allow for a third-party decision not one provided by the City arborist or one provided by the property owner staff requested Arborist, Lois Edwards of Tree City USA, to provide her input as well. She stated “I do not recommend that the tree between the two buildings be removed at this time. The leafless branches may still have living tissue and not be totally dead branches. It would be best to wait to see if they leaf out this spring.” She continued by saying “half the tree is in good shape and it might be good to investigate why just one side of the tree looks to be in poor health. Many times, just one large root is damaged thus effecting the on side of the tree. I do believe it is a root issue and effecting the crown.” And finished up her recommendation by stating “I agree with your recommendation not to remove the tree at this time. More time is needed to see what exact issues the tree has.”

The recommendations from each arborist and pictures of the tree are included in your packet.

The board and staff discussed in length.

Mclain made a motion to defer the item to the second meeting in June to allow the tree time to leaf out at the recommendation of City Arborist. The applicant is not to prune the tree or the limbs until after the item comes before the board again and then the applicant is to work with the City Arborist to ensure proper pruning protocols are met. Kurlowski seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion carried.

V. BOARD INPUT

Kurlowski wanted to voice her concern with the ability to establish validity to an applicant’s claims of an unhealthy tree. Staff advised the current policy.

Jordan wanted to request staff to rework the Tree ordinance to include removal of trees on developed properties as the protected tree section allows. Jordan also requests staff to explore including language or a program in which landmark trees through out the City, both public and private, could be maintained and monitored by City staff.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. STAFF INPUT

Dennis informed the board about the City partnering with Conway Elementary School to enter into a lottery pool to win a Moon Tree from NASA. Staff informed the board they would keep them updated on the progress.

VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at approx. 5:03 p.m. The vote in favor was unanimous and the motion carried.

Approved and signed this 26th day of June, 2023.


Gerry Wallace, Chairperson