

## Park Committee

Report for July, 2013

The Park Committee did not meet formally in July. The last meeting of the Park Committee was on June 3 and the Minutes of that meeting were reported at the Board of Directors meeting in June.

The following topics are on-going and had some activity since the last Board meeting:

### 1) Tree Maintenance

Dekalb Tree Service submitted one of the lower bids and Sheri was successful in getting them to lower that bid considerably after catching them dumping mulch in the Park. Their final bid at \$1,800 was much lower (nearly \$800 lower) than the next lower bid. Their approach was to climb the tree and lower the branches on ropes. However, after many missed appointments over a 6 week period (some without notice) and many unreturned phone calls, it became apparent that they were not going to complete the job for the price. In the meantime, the rains have made the tree un-climbable.

Boutte Tree Service with a bid of \$2,600 (plus up to \$400 for county permits) was the lowest of the services that wanted to use a crane to cut and lower the tree branches. We have an agreement with them to prune the tree on Wednesday, August 14. They are going to put the crane in the middle of East Parkwood between Parkwood Lane and the By-Pass. They estimate the road will be closed from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and they are coordinating with the County and City on the temporary road closure. They will haul away the wood but will leave the wood chips.

### 2) Tree Inventory

The recent rains have softened the soil holding many leaning trees and we continue to watch several of the trees in the Park that are otherwise healthy but lean -- particularly those along East Parkwood. Many of the recent reports of limbs down in and around the Park were green limbs from apparently healthy trees that had been snapped off in the storms.

There are approximately a half-dozen trees in the Park that need some attention and Committee is addressing some of those and getting estimates on others. There are another half-dozen trees that we are watching for changes in their status (leaning more, tip branches dying, etc.)

### 3) Invasive Plant Removal

Bartlett Tree Service returned in mid-July to complete the spraying of the west side of the Park from Ponce de Leon to the By-Pass. Due to the large amount of “collateral damage” from the chemical (Tryiclopyr) used on the first round of spraying in mid-May, a different chemical (Glyphosate) was used in the July spraying

The final analysis of the spraying in May is that much of the English Ivy that was directly sprayed is dead but that many of the very young and smaller trees and shrubs with soft leaves were killed or damaged by mists and vapors created during the spraying. This includes many Spicebush and Devil’s Walking Stick plants. Some larger trees (Mulberry and Box Elder, both of which we consider removing whenever we have a chance) had the leaves on lower branches die and fall off without apparent permanent damage to the rest of the tree. Glyphosate, the chemical used in the second round of spraying, is the same chemical in Roundup and it is more effective against Liriope and some of the invasive grasses and less harmful to woody plants like the Spicebush.

### 4) Fund Raising

Sheri says this year’s honey sale has begun and after the fall street party she expects to donate the proceeds from the honey sale to the Park. Last year Sheri and Jim donated \$1,000 to the Park from their honey sale. We don’t know what the amount will be this year. Karna says T-shirt sales have yielded \$160 for the Park.