

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

February 12, 2020

4:30 PM

405 NW 39TH AVE

Tree Advisory Board

*E.J. Bulduc (Member)
Ivor Kincaide (Member)
Jason Smith (Member)
Marc Frank (Member)
Erick Smith (Chair)
Ryan Klein (Student Seat)*

1 Call to Order - 4:39 PM**2 Roll Call**

Chair Smith notified staff of Member Kincaide's intention to resign from the Board.

Present 4 - Member Bolduc III, Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

Absent 2 - Member Kincaide, and Student Seat Klein

190969. Approve Agenda

RECOMMENDATION *Approve Agenda*

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Bolduc, III, that this Matter be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Bolduc III, Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

Absent: 2 - Member Kincaide, and Student Seat Klein

190970. Approve Minutes of January 8th, 2020 Meeting

RECOMMENDATION *Approve minutes of previous meeting.*

A motion was made by Member Bolduc, III, seconded by Member Frank, that this Matter be Approved as Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Bolduc III, Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

Absent: 2 - Member Kincaide, and Student Seat Klein

3 Public Comment

City Horticulturist Chelsea Proia provided an update on the food forest initiative, requesting that the board make a decision as to whether the city could donate trees for the public space in lieu of an MOU. The board discussed the pros and cons of the arrangement and voted on the matter.

A motion was made by Member Bolduc III, seconded by Member Frank, that the Board support the food forest initiative as presented by Chelsea to purchase up to \$2,000 worth of fruit trees with tree mitigation funds as selected by the City Horticulturist on land owned by Santa Fe College; the motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Knee presented the Board with a specimen of Grevillea robusta. Mr. Knee recommended that the species be planted on a trial basis in some public areas, stating that the tree remains attractive year-round and could be a good addition to

the Gainesville tree list. The board discussed the species' potential. Staff will research its use in public spaces. Member Frank will conduct research on the species to assess its risk in becoming a problem species.

Chair Smith advised city staff of a possible pruning violation at GTEC on the south side of SE Hawthorne Road.

City Arborist Brian Watkins announced his departure from the City of Gainesville.

4 Old Business

190621. Discuss Grow Hub Contract Potential and Limitations

City Arborist Brian Watkins provided the Board with an update as to the scope of the GrowHub project proposal. Significant changes have been made to the original proposal which is still under revision, however the monetary investment is projected to be higher than the Board originally approved. Both Member Smith and GRU Utility Forester Joe Wolf have been contacted by the county and/or GrowHub regarding the project. The Board requested that GrowHub and County Arborist Lacy Holtzworth be present the next time the matter came before the board. The Board tabled the discussion for a later date.

Postponed

5 New Business

190971. Change of Meeting Location

The Board directed staff to move forward with changing the meeting location to the Thomas Center. If necessary, Member Smith advised that the meetings could be moved back to 4:00 p.m. due to the change in location.

Discussed

190972. Funding New FTE Out of Tree Mitigation Fund

RECOMMENDATION *The Tree Advisory Board support the staffing plan goals and objectives presented by staff as identified in the Urban Forestry Program Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2020-2022.*

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Bolduc III, to hire an FTE Temporary Position out of the Tree Mitigation Fund to assist the Horticulturist.

Aye: 4 - Member Bolduc III, Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

Absent: 2 - Member Kincaide, and Student Seat Klein

191011.

A motion was made by Member Smith, seconded by Member Frank, that the Board support a watering contract that supports the city's tree plantings using tree mitigation funds.

Aye: 4 - Member Bolduc III, Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

Absent: 2 - Member Kincaide, and Student Seat Klein

6 Public Works Update

Staff shared with the board a memorandum sent out from the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives regarding “Private Property Rights, Chapter 2019-155, Laws of Florida.” Member Bolduc III requested that the memorandum be shown to the Board. Staff shared with the Board a status report on Tree Mitigation Fund expenditures and deposits since the last meeting. The Board requested that a final balance be added to future reports.

7 GRU Update

Utility Forester Joe Wolf updated the Board on the City Commission’s decision to table the discussion regarding the FPL transition plan. He also shared GRU’s response to restore power after the last windstorm that occurred on February 6th.

8 Member Jason Smith Update

Member Smith shared with the Board and city staff a summary of a new project with the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture which is aimed at developing tools for arborists to diagnose hazard trees. Permission to sample trees on public property may be needed as part of the project.

9 Adjourn - 6:33 PM