

## Tree Ordinance Stakeholder Committee Charter

<b>Sponsors</b>	Steve Phillips, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director Wendy Thomas, Department of Doing Director
<b>Steering Committee</b>	Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager Steve Phillips, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Director Wendy Thomas, Department of Doing Director
<b>Team leader</b>	Lila Stewart, Interim Strategic Planning Manager
<b>Facilitator</b>	Micah Lipscomb, Sr. Landscape Architect, Perkins + Will
<b>Staff support</b>	Kristy Crawford, Senior Executive Assistant
<b>Team members</b>	Debra Neill-Mareci, DRB Board Member Janie Williams, Porters resident Ivor Kincaide, Tree Advisory Board, Chair John Fleming, Owner, Trimark Linda Demetropoulos, Nature Operations Manager, City Michelle Smith Lambert, Chief Change Officer, City Ralph Hilliard, Planning Manager, City Sergio Reyes, Owner, EDA
<b>Resources</b>	David Schwartz, Assistant City Attorney Diane Wilson, Budget Manager Earline Luhrman, Urban Forestry Inspector Mark Siburt, City Arborist Joe Wolf, GRU Utility Forester Sean McDermott, Assistant City Attorney

### PURPOSE

Make recommendations for quick changes to incentives for tree mitigation, equity of tree mitigation requirements, uses of tree mitigation funds, and the economic impact of tree mitigation to the Gainesville City Commission.

## BACKGROUND

The City's Land Development Code requires a tree removal permit to remove regulated trees. The permit generally requires mitigation by planting trees or paying the tree mitigation fee. The most recent update to the Tree Ordinance was approved by the City Commission in 2013. Since that time, through stakeholder engagement, four main issues have been raised regarding the current ordinance. Perkins+Will has recommended that the City form a stakeholder committee to reach a consensus on those four issues; 1) Uses of Mitigation Funds, 2) Incentives for Tree Preservation, 3) Economic Impact of Mitigation, and 4.) Equity of Mitigation Requirements.

At their December 8, 2016 regular General Policy Committee meeting, the Commission discussed short and long-range options to make changes to the Tree Ordinance:

### Short-term (2 – 5 months):

Based on concerns that led to the referral, the Commission asked staff to form a diverse stakeholder committee, as an interim effort, to make recommendations for quick changes to incentives for tree mitigation, equity of mitigation requirements, uses of mitigation funds, and the economic impact of mitigation.

### Long-term (1 - 5 years):

As a long-term strategy and best practice, the Commission directed staff to gather data, conduct an ecological assessment, create an urban services management plan, build consensus and then update it on a five year cycle.

The purpose of this stakeholder committee is to address and fulfill the short-term strategy.

## SCOPE

- Uses of Mitigation Funds  
*The Tree Mitigation Fund was created to augment the City's Urban Forestry Programs by funding new tree plantings associated with public improvement projects or for the preservation of trees through the purchase of conservation lands. It has been suggested that the allowable uses be expanded.*
- Incentives for Tree Preservation  
*The larger question of whether payments for tree mitigation solely incentivize preservation has been raised and alternative methods proposed, such as building setback adjustments based on tree preservation, reduction in stormwater treatment requirements and flexibility in lot size requirements.*
- Economic Impact of Mitigation  
*Today, the City charges a tree mitigation fee for up to three heritage trees per acre and it has been argued that this creates a hardship on smaller lots, urban in-fill lots and has the potential to encourage sprawl. It has been suggested that options are explored to level the playing field for the economic impact of mitigation.*

- Equity of Mitigation Requirements  
*The quality of the correlation between the collection of the tree mitigation fee and the expenditures on improvements has been questioned by citizens. It has been suggested that additional means of mitigation be allowed.*

#### TIMELINE

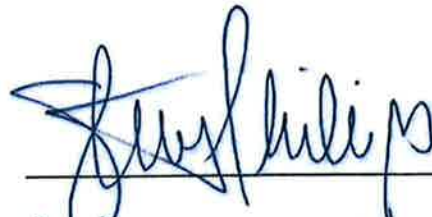
- February 2017 – Team formation
- March 2017 – Tree canopy survey complete
- March – April, 2017 – Committee meetings
  - March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 10am - Meeting 1:
    - Topic 1: Incentives for Tree Preservation
      - Presentation
      - Team brainstorming and prioritization
  - Meeting 2:
    - Topic 2: Uses of Mitigation Funds
      - Presentation
      - Team brainstorming and prioritization
  - Meeting 3:
    - Topic 3: Economic Impact of Mitigation
      - Presentation
      - Team brainstorming and prioritization
  - Meeting 4:
    - Topic 4: Equity of Mitigation Requirements
      - Presentation
      - Team brainstorming and prioritization
  - Meeting 5:
    - Form recommendations & reach consensus
- May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 - Agenda Item & Back-up Due
- May 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 – General Policy Committee Meeting Report Out
- Dates and Times dependent upon resource availability and subject to change

#### RESOURCE COMMITMENT

- Group meetings (4 – 5 meetings total)
  - 90 minutes / week
- Outside work
  - 2 hours / week

#### APPROVAL

Steve Phillips, Director:



Date: 3/2/17

Wendy Thomas, Director:



Date: 3/2/17