

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Draft

December 8, 2021

4:00 PM

Thomas Center Room 105

Tree Advisory Board

Erick Smith (Chair)
Marc Frank (Member)
C. Elisabeth Manley (Member)
Russell Adams (Member)
Ryan Klein (Member)
Dana Willson (Student Seat)

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CALL TO ORDER - 4:17PM**ROLL CALL**

Present 5 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, Klein, and Willson

Absent 1 - Adams

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Manley, that the agenda be approved.:

Aye: 4 - Member Frank, Member Klein, Member Manley, Chair Smith

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Manley, that this matter be Adopted. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, and Klein

Abstain: 1 - Willson

Absent: 1 - Adams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Member Frank to approve the minutes of November 9th, 2021.

Aye: 4 Member Frank, Member Klein, Member Manley, Chair Smith

A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Member Frank, that this Matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, and Klein

Abstain: 1 - Willson

Absent: 1 - Adams

[210698.](#)

Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of November 9, 2021 (B)

GRU UPDATE

Forester Wolf touched on his responsibilities with oversight of forest biomass supply. One of the requirements is a third party audit of Minimum Sustainability Standards. This was completed 12/6. The audit found 100% compliance. He described the audit process, biomass supply chain, economics and procurement area.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Arborist Conser has filled the tree surgeon position. The Streetlight illumination trimming report was finished and sent to the Commission. Planting is starting on SW 40th Boulevard, a watering contract is being prepared for all plantings from now on. Evergreen Cemetery and the arboretum is a go. The tree walk will have interpretive signs that can be used through cellular phones. Dave completed an interview about fall color for TV20. Staff is investigating becoming a Bee City, developing pollinator habitat and incorporated into R/O/W management. Gus Doran, at the request of Commissioner Ward is developing a tree planting report.

Arborist Conser presented his vision of planting trees using funds from the TMF. Coordinator Schatz described the proposed private lands canopy program. This entails providing 2 trees to each single family residential home, a one-on-one meeting with staff teaching them how to plant them, planting the right tree in the right place and following up with a 6 month inspection. If the trees are looking good, the homeowner can reapply for up to 4 more trees. The Board was intrigued and spent some time discussing this program, outlined below.

Members Frank and Klein asked how these site visits will impact staff duties (understanding the current situation of high volume work and minimal staff). Arborist Conser advised they are working to develop a Sr. Horticulturist position. Member Klein said the City of Miami provides an irrigation bag with trees given away. He suggested providing container trees of 15 gallons or less to ensure survivability to which Arborist Conser and Board agreed. Member Willson described his experience with the City of Raleigh and their program called "Neighborwoods". He'll get more information and present at the next meeting. Chair Smith wanted to have the exact language of the Tree Mitigation Fund in front of the Board before further discussions. He suggested using the educational component/program of the Fund, because Staff will be one-on-one with citizens telling them how to plant and establish these trees.

Member Manley asked how to police the program for potential misuse, How do rental properties fit? The program needs to be for single family residential zoned properties only to offer the end goal and not come under negative optics. Arborist Conser brought up using it for churches, HOA's and businesses which would all contribute to the canopy diversification and replenishment of the City. He stressed the follow up visits by a Certified Arborist/City Staff to ensure compliance and proper use of the program. Member Manley asked how liability and insurance is impacted by planting trees on private property. Forester Wolf said GRU has had customers sign a waiver, reviewed by legal, for these type of issues in their program. This absolves the city of any liabilities. Chair Smith stressed using the educational component of the TMF to foster this tree planting program. He stressed inspecting the current code and making changes if needed.

Since they were talking about the use of TMF funds, Member Frank expressed his frustrations regarding the inability to acquire property. Multiple Boards over the last several years shared this point of view. Board has always prioritized

land acquisition as the best use of TMF funds. It preserves land and trees on an ecosystem level. Board expressed concerns regarding the balance of the Fund. As the fund grows and doesn't get used it comes under scrutiny for spending in other ways. Chair Smith suggested Board put their land acquisition vision/perspective in a narrative, striking while the iron is hot. Board involvement is crucial to protection and use of TMF.

Arborist Conser said the scheduled (and required) Urban Forest survey will be a big project and use TMF funds. Larsen McBride discussed his involvement with the 2016 Ecological Analysis. Member Klein suggested using the survey to target least canopied neighborhoods and targeting them for improvement/tree distribution. Board agreed. Arborist Conser said the recent Tree Give Away at Morningside helped with that, targeting the East side of town. Member Manley stressed looking at the overall urban canopy, all land uses.

Forester Wolf brought up the Tree Mitigation Working Committee from years ago. Only a few Board members were present for that project and its deliverable. He suggested contacting John Fleming of Trimark, including him in further discussions to engage the developers when discussing the tree planting program. Member Manley agreed. The development community is paying the most into the TMF and having them seeing that money flowing back into the community rather than sitting idle would ensure their support.

Coordinator Schatz said he will have the current TMF balance at the next meeting. They cannot see the balance, it sits in another department. The Department Directors are meeting to allow access. He hopes this will let Public Works staff keep an ongoing accounting of the inputs, outputs and balance.

The topic of the private land canopy program will be continued in future meetings as an agenda item.

PLANNING UPDATE

Coordinator Schatz read the planning update. Staff will attend in person next meeting and discuss the SW 6th Street/University Avenue Blount project as a model for cooperation between planning, staff and private.

DISCUSSION

201067.

Discuss Updated Approved Tree List for the Tree Ordinance (B)

Board continued through the tree list species by species. Board debated these points with each species: how many examples are out there and where have they seen them. Where they have seen them used in the landscape. Specific examples of success and failures. All members discussed the nursery availability of the species on the list. Board felt if the species was not currently grown, the inclusion in the list would be a good thing and foster demand, which in turn would place the underused

trees in the landscape. I did not record specific comments by each species, but each Board member contributed the following principles relating to all species in their discussion.

Member Frank clarified and answered botanical and taxonomic questions. He commented on adaptability to hard freezes and resistance to pests. He advocated for tree species with historical value, citing specific examples.

Member Manley shared her experiences with code and ordinances, plan review and development processes. She cited specific examples of species that work with code and those that didn't. Her comments also referenced the Tree Appraised Value system. She cited examples of TAV calculations and their impacts on development process, both from her side and the developer's side. Her vision was to have a practical, workable list

Chair Smith kept Board on track and focused. He made sure all questions were answered and all voices heard. He also shared personal experiences and stressed diversity.

Arborist Conser shared his experiences within the city and Alachua County. He focused on the prevalence of species, the locations of specific example trees, his interactions with the public and their perspective on the species.

Member Klein stressed long term maintenance, hazards as the age (cavities, rot), and availability. He stressed diversity and considering future pest and disease implications.

Larsen McBride shared his personal experiences with species in the urban landscapes of Gainesville and the surrounding areas. He discussed his experiences with landscape trees in California. His comments focused on decay resistance, species quality and species abundance in landscapes.

Board ended discussing gallberry and will pick up there for next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tree Advisory Board 1) review tree documentation; and 2) arrive at a consensus for a suggested revision to the Code.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larsen's public comments were included throughout the meeting. Chair Smith made sure to ask for input when discussing items.

MEMBER COMMENT

There was no member comment

NEXT MEETING DATE - 01/12/22

ADJOURNMENT - 6:00PM