

# City of Gainesville

*City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



## **Minutes - Draft**

**January 8, 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 - 4:46 PM****2 Roll Call**

**Present** 4 - Member Smith, Member Frank, Chair Smith, and Student Seat Klein

**Absent** 1 - Member Kincaide

[190806.](#)

Approve Agenda

RECOMMENDATION *Approve agenda.*

**Approved as Recommended**

**Aye:** 3 - Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

**Abstain:** 1 - Student Seat Klein

**Absent:** 1 - Member Kincaide

[190807.](#)

Minutes of December 11th, 2019 Meeting

RECOMMENDATION *Approve minutes of previous meeting.*

**Approved as Recommended**

**Aye:** 3 - Member Smith, Member Frank, and Chair Smith

**Abstain:** 1 - Student Seat Klein

**Absent:** 1 - Member Kincaide

**3 Public Comment**

Chelsea Proia briefed the board on the upcoming Food Forest Initiative and challenges thus far. The subject may be brought to the Board in the future.

**4 Old Business**

[190809.](#)

Discussion of Evergreen Cemetery Arboretum Concept

Chelsea Proia stated that Karen at Evergreen Cemetery is on board with the concept. Marc Frank and Jason Smith both cautioned that if the scope of the project will not be representative of a true arboretum, that the project not be named as such. Marc Frank also voiced concerns regarding the potential conflicts between cemetery needs and the needs for the success of the project as well as the amount of space available for the project. Jason Smith stated that if the project is pursued it must be sustainable in the long-term. Marc Frank also recommended that an accessions policy would need to be written for removing memorial trees that are

risky.

**Discussed**

190810.

Discuss Urban Forest Management Plan Progress

The board discussed the progress of the Urban Forest Management Plan thus far, specifically discussing the first draft of the performance indicators. Board members will be sending their comments in to Rob Northrop and Emily Nieves for further review and incorporation into the plan. Several members of the board stressed the importance of a collaborative and adaptive process and the flexibility to revise the plan in the future as new challenges or issues arise.

**Discussed**

**5 New Business**

190812.

Discuss Topics to Bring to New City Manager

The board discussed topics for Chair Erick Smith to bring to the City Manager. Staffing issues within the urban forestry program, the history and uses of the Tree Mitigation Fund, fostering a formal collaborative effort between the Public Works and Planning Departments regarding trees, and stressing the availability of the board to the City Manager as a resource were all suggested. City staff will perform comparative research regarding the size and staffing of the program with regards to its duties, Gainesville's canopy cover, and within the context of the size and population of the city. In addition, it was requested that discussion of funding an employee out of the Tree Mitigation Fund be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.

**Discussed**

**6 Public Works Update**

Staff advised the Board that the minutes will now be written in a different format in compliance with the request of the Clerk's office. Staff also advised the board that after requesting information regarding Tree Mitigation Fund uses from the City Attorney's office, that it was recommended that the board direct questions regarding specific uses of the fund for legal review for a more comprehensive answer. Staff shared an overview of Tree Mitigation Fund activity for the calendar year 2019 with the board and projected expenditures in spring of 2020. Staff also advised the board of a large drainage improvements project near Hermitage which will require thinning and tree removals in the forested area between Featherwood and Hermitage.

**7 GRU Update**

Joe Wolf updated the board on the potential of GRU pursuing a contractual agreement with Florida Power & Light which is aimed at reducing energy costs and reducing the cost to ratepayers. There is the potential for GRU energy plants to be phased out. Joe Wolf provided the board with an overview of the transition plan which will be presented to the City Commission this month.

**8      Adjourn - 6:58 PM**