

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Draft

March 11, 2020

4:00 PM

Thomas Center A, Room 105

Tree Advisory Board

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

1 Call to Order - 4:17 p.m.**2 Roll Call**

Present 5 - Member Smith, Member Frank, Chair Smith, Student Seat Klein, and Member Manley

[191091.](#) Approve Agenda

RECOMMENDATION *Approve Agenda*

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

Aye: 5 - Member Smith, Member Frank, Chair Smith, Student Seat Klein, and Member Manley

[191092.](#) Approve Minutes of February 12th, 2020 Meeting

RECOMMENDATION *Approve minutes of previous meeting.*

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

Aye: 5 - Member Smith, Member Frank, Chair Smith, Student Seat Klein, and Member Manley

3 Public Comment

Member Klein expressed appreciation for the removal of an uprooted tree on a path near GRU building. Member Frank cautioned the board that Silky Oak has been found to be naturalized in different areas of the state and does not recommend it be added to the Gainesville tree list. Member Smith and Interim City Arborist Chelsea Proia discussed some of the species that he is propagating.

4 Old Business

None.

5 New Business

[191093.](#) Update Tree Board of Appeals

RECOMMENDATION *The Tree Advisory Board move to appoint a new member to the Tree Board of Appeals.*

A motion was made by Member Smith, seconded by Member Manley, that Member Frank be appointed to the Tree Board of Appeals. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Smith, Member Frank, Chair Smith, Student Seat Klein, and Member Manley

191094.

Proposed Revisions to Tree Ordinance

Program Assistant Emily Nieves presented the proposed changes to the tree ordinances.

The Board discussed the need to update, replace, or retire the Gainesville tree list with the goal of consolidating requirements with the GRU tree list, the Urban Forest Management Plan tree matrix, FLEPPC List, and State of Florida Noxious Weed List. The Board requested that this matter be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the suggestion of including a tree inventory in the approved uses of the Tree Mitigation Fund; further information is necessary for the Board to make a decision on their recommendation, including justification, size, scope, cost, purpose, and application of the tree inventory in city activities.

Regarding the proposed changes to the mitigation table in Sec. 30-8.7, Member Manley suggested that the different approaches for single-family and all other land uses be clearly defined in the section; that the language regarding F.S. 163.045 be simplified; and that the use of the word “must” be changed to “minimum,” in the event residents wish to mitigate with larger stock. In addition, the Board recommended that the proposed mitigation size for single family be reduced from the staff recommendation of 5 or 7 gallon containers to 3 or 5 gallon. Staff advised that in addition to the recommendations in the mitigation table that the Board would need to provide input for adjusting the equivalent fees for trees not replanted and for cases where residents wish to mitigate with larger stock.

Regarding Sec. 30-8.9, the Board directed staff to verify whether (C. Pruning) is consistent with ANSI A300 standards. Joe Wolf spoke to the applicability of this section to utility line clearance, which adheres to different standards and presents a conflict. The idea of condensing the section or referring to the standards themselves was considered but consensus was not reached. Mr. Bolduc III and Member Manley spoke to the language used in the proposed change to the last line of this section. It was suggested that the language be simplified to “If the city manager or designee finds a pruning violation, mitigation trees shall be planted according to Sec. 30-8.7.” Further discussion on this section is needed.

Regarding Sec. 30-44 (B)(4)(b)(vi), city staff asked the Board to consider the possible ramifications of the suggested change in penalties for regulated trees removed without a permit. Under the existing language, any regulated Laurel Oak

on residential property removed without a permit would need to be mitigated on an inch-for-inch basis. The proposed recommendations are intended to make penalties proportional to the actual condition and species of the tree that was removed in violation of the code. Further discussion on this section is needed.

Chair Smith confirmed the following items to be placed on the next meeting's agenda: Discussion of the Gainesville Tree List; Continuation of the Discussion of Proposed Changes to Land Development Code Section 30.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tree Advisory Board review the proposed recommendations; the Board motion to support the proposed recommendations; and the Board direct staff to provide the recommended revisions to the City Attorney's office for legal review.

Discussed

6 Public Works Update

Program Assistant Emily Nieves provided an update on the City Arborist position vacancy. The position has already been advertised and application window has closed. Operations Manager Debora Rivera has initiated the discussion with HR to hire a City Temp per the Board's recommendations. Program Assistant Nieves is working on developing the watering contract and consolidating the planting potential with the expected watering schedule for the contractor.

7 GRU Update

Utility Forester Joe Wolf updated the Board on recently procured equipment which will assist in situations where climbers were traditionally needed.

8 Adjourn - 6:00 p.m.