

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Draft**

July 14, 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)*  
*Elisabeth Staten (Student Seat)*

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**CALL TO ORDER - 4:05 PM****ROLL CALL - 4:00 PM**

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

**Absent** 1 - Adams

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

**Abstain:** 1 - Student Seat Staten

**Absent:** 1 - Adams

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:**

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

**Abstain:** 1 - Student Seat Staten

**Absent:** 1 - Adams

[201217.](#) Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of July 14, 2021 (B)

Strategic Connection

This item is connected to Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience - a normal priority item.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Tree Advisory Board approve the minutes of June 16, 2021.*

**DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS**

[200683.](#)

Member Frank suggested having a variety of presentations of different lengths and content to cater to the target audience. He also suggested using larger font. From his extension experiences, elderly citizens gave feedback on not being able to see the presentation clearly. Member Manley said the presentation is too text heavy and needs trimmed down. Board agreed on both accounts. They felt making a dynamic

presentation, having a “deck of slides” to pull from and mix together was critical to be able to tailor presentations to the audience and time constraints. Member Staten suggested more visuals and pictures to aid in the education.

Arborist Conser reviewed his slides. All board members gave their input on presentation content. They also gave their input from dealing with public outreach. Member Klein discussed how tree removal costs can be prohibitive when dealing with removing their trees. Chair Smith brought up his experiences with citizens and dealing with hazardous trees (assessments and recommendations). Coordinator Schatz said the ordinances have a financial hardship clause for low income housing which reduces mitigation costs. Member Manley related an experience using the low income allowance which made a 300,000 difference in TAV costs, allowing the project to move forward. Member Frank emphasized adding a slide about the questions you should ask when hiring a tree company/selecting a qualified arborist: It’s a high risk profession and you typically get what you pay for. Board agreed citizens typically do not want to pay for tree removals, they would rather spend money on other things. Member Klein brought up considering not only the cost of the removal but the value and risk of the tree when selecting arborists.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.*

**201067.**

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

Arborist Conser presented two lists: (1) A consolidated Gainesville Tree List and (2) A high quality shade tree list for review. Chair Smith set a deadline of 30 minutes to discuss with a plan and goal.

Member Manley was most experienced with using the lists in plan review. She said the shade tree list regulates the Tree Appraised Value (TAV) in development projects. This TAV can and has greatly affected potential projects due to the economics. Her suggestion was to focus on this list first as it plays an integral part in development and economics. Board agreed and discussion ensued. Board recommended adding these species to the high quality list: Florida Elm, Sycamore, Red Cedar, Catalpa, Post oak and Cottonwood. Board felt new species may encourage nurseries to grow stock, thereby adding these to the canopy of Gainesville over time. Member Manley cautioned that the inclusion of 10 more trees requiring TAV on a development site increases costs. Some people won’t be happy and development projects may be abandoned. Member Frank suggested spending more time on list review, letting Member Adams have input and making a motion for a new high quality shade tree list next meeting. Chair and Board agreed.

**Understory Tree List**

Chair Smith opened discussion with the following questions: “What does this list mean as a regulatory standpoint?” and “If it gets put into code, what does it do”. From her experience with code, Member Manley said to remove the term “high quality”, it will have unintended consequences. Member Manley clarified that any codified list restricts you to only plant these tree species on a development site. If this list is not codified, it could be reviewed and changed more easily. She asked “Are there understory trees that are valued? Are there quality understory trees being removed?” Chair Smith stressed keeping regulatory issues separate versus the objectives of simply promoting quality low growers. He also suggested any list would

be small and limited to species in low numbers. Board agreed on not codifying this list and removing the high quality term.

Member Frank asked if a site can't get a shade tree (utility or space requirements) would this be the best option to make sure an understory tree of good quality is planted? Member Klein asked if staff checks trees when a permit or development plan is issued. Staff and Member Manley answered yes, the site is walked and all trees are verified as to size and species.

Cultivars were discussed. Cultivars come from two distinct paths: (1) Goal driven or research based breeding (disease resistance) and (2) aesthetic breeding (flower color). Board felt that given their benefits, a limited percentage of trees on a given site could be cultivars. For example, no more than 25% cultivars on a particular site.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

[201224.](#)

**Public Works Update (NB)**

Sam Schatz was introduced as the new Program Coordinator. The APWA accreditation is complete. 700 trees were planted at Depot Park. There is a need to conduct an updated tree inventory, using the TMF funds. This is part of the 5 year ecological analysis mandated by the Urban Forest Plan. It would be a full inventory of City of Gainesville properties on Right of ways - urban areas only. Arborist Conser received tree risk assessment and qualification training. He hired one Tree Surgeon. The candidate for Tree Surgeon 2 never responded to his offer. He cites low salaries as the major problem in filling these vacant positions.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.*

[201221.](#)

**Planning Department Update (NB)**

The Arbor Day Event will distribute 550 fruiting and native trees from Morningside Park on 9/24. Trees were purchased with funds from the CBB/TMF - 50/50% split. TAB members were invited to participate. Members thought this would be a good opportunity for community outreach. Member Frank thought this would be a good event to recruit Board members - the membership of the Board should represent the community. Planning said there may be an opportunity to purchase a wetland/Hogtown Creek buffer parcel near Eagle Trace Apartments. This would butt up against the NW 29th Road Nature Park

**RECOMMENDATION**

*Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.*

[201222.](#)

**GRU Update (NB)**

With storm season upon us, Forester Wolf gave a presentation on electrical safety and back feed from generators. He also discussed the safety steps taken in GRU's restoration process.

RECOMMENDATION

*Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**NEXT MEETING DATE 8-11-2021**

**ADJOURNMENT 6:21 PM**