

City of Gainesville

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



Minutes - Final

September 9, 2020

4:00 PM

Virtual Teleconference Meeting

Tree Advisory Board

*Erick Smith (Chair)
Jason Smith (Member)
Marc Frank (Member)
C. Elisabeth Manley (Member)
Ryan Klein (Student Seat)*

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1 Call to Order - 4:00 PM**2 Roll Call**

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

[200305.](#) Approve Agenda

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

[200306.](#) Approve Minutes of August 12th, 2020 Meeting

Attachments: [8-12-20 TAB Meeting Minutes - Draft](#)

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 New Business

[200307.](#) ISA Florida Chapter Urban Tree Decay Study

Member Smith presented the agenda item and requested the assistance of the board and city staff in collecting and identifying the locations of decay fungi that are producing fruiting bodies in street trees. The project is focused on a survey of decay fungi in three cities in Florida and is meant to help arborists identify hazardous trees and provide additional resources to local arborists in Florida. The results of the study will help arborists identify fungi that are hazardous and assess the level of decay that may be present in trees.

Public Comment: Larsen McBride spoke to the matter.

Discussed

[200308.](#) 2020 Urban Forestry Workshop Planning

The board discussed the format of the workshop, which will need to be held virtually this year. The role of the CBB budget in the event is still an ongoing discussion. The workshop that will be held in December will be geared towards helping professionals attain CEUs, since Member Frank advised that the Master

Gardeners, who historically make up a majority of attendees, have successfully been able to complete their continuing education with webinars that are available online, but this need may not be met for landscape and arboriculture professionals. Registration will be required via an EventBrite registration form. The Zoom account will be upgraded to a Webinar license to host the workshop. Member Klein pointed out that we should verify participation and attendance for ISA professionals, perhaps by a survey at the end of the webinar. In terms of topics for the workshop, the following were suggested: tree selection, maintenance and care, integrated pest management, regulations, hardscape/landscape interactions, and hurricane resistance. The board discussed the structure of the program; it was decided that each topic will have its own webinar session, spread out over the course of a few weeks or months. Member Manley recommended that the topics are scheduled with the deadlines for each organization's CEUs in mind. Member Klein recommended that the city update attendees on what the city is working on somehow during workshops. Program Assistant Nieves recommended that the various departments take turns hosting the workshops for the topics that are most relevant to them as a way to involve the city in the workshop and introduce the topic. Member Manley recommended each board member partner up with each city staff to host the webinars. Ultimately, the workshop will take the form of a series of webinars, hosted by a city staff member and a board member, each webinar being a one hour session. The first will be hosted in December, with the remaining sessions continuing in January and beyond. Member Klein will present his research in December, focusing on hurricane resistant trees for North Florida. He will partner with Utility Forester Joe Wolf.

Public Comment: Larsen McBride spoke to the matter. EJ Bolduc spoke to the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the objectives of the workshop, its structure and duration, and begin compiling a list of possible speakers for the event.

Discussed

4 Old Business

200197.

Continue Discussions Regarding Tree Ordinance Revisions

Attachments:

[DIVISION 2. TREES AND LANDSCAPE \(1\)](#)

[Minutes05-Aug-2020-02-44-43](#)

[Sec. 30 8.7. Permits for tree removal mitigation. 1-23-20 Emily sugge](#)

[Sec. 30 8.44. Violations enforcement and penalties. 1-23-20 Emily su](#)

[Sec. 30 8.7. Permits for tree removal mitigation CEM input](#)

[Sec. 30 8.7. Permits for tree removal mitigation with comments from](#)

Program Assistant Nieves described the documents attached to the agenda item. After a brief discussion, it was decided that board members would individually make recommendations to the most recent version of the Land Development Code individually using “tracked changes.” Over the course of the next few meetings, board members will submit their recommendations for each section, which will then become the focus of the following meeting. The goal is that the recommendations will be completed by the end of the year.

Public Comment: EJ Bolduc spoke to the matter.

Continued

5 Public Works Update

City Arborist Dave Conser provided an update on public works operations. He and Horticulturist Eric Kohnen have focused on purchasing trees from nurseries to expend funds before the end of the fiscal year and stock up for the planting season. SW 40TH Blvd is more definitive with exact locations for trees having been mapped out. Food Forest discussions have resumed and are also a part of SW 40th Blvd. There is an opportunity to improve the Sweetwater Linear Park and the removal of invasive exotics as well as tree trimming and planting.

6 GRU Update

Utility Forester Joe wolf provided an update on GRU’s outage study, which has produced interesting results, with the biggest culprits being laurel oak, sweetgum, pines, a live oak and a cherry. All the trees that caused an outage were private trees, 20+ feet away from GRU infrastructure. Many did not have visible rot or conks on them. A couple of incidents were whole tree failures. One laurel oak had caused an 11 hour outage, requiring twelve crews to restore power for the one tree failure. GRU is consistently reviewing reliability and the time it takes to restore power, as well as preventative measures.

7 Dept. of Sustainable Development Update

Urban Forestry Inspector Chelsea Proia recommended that the board review the unit factor square inch price, a variable used in the tree appraised value formula that is codified, due to the expansion that the city has experienced in development since the formula was originally written.

8 Adjourn - 6:00 PM