

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

December 16, 2020

4:00 PM

Rescheduled from 12/9 to 12/16 as virtual workshop

Virtual Workshop

Tree Advisory Board

Erick Smith (Chair)
Jason Smith (Member)
Marc Frank (Member)
C. Elisabeth Manley (Member)
Russell Adams (Member)
Elisabeth Staten (Student Seat)

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

Present 6 -Member Frank, Member Manley, Member Adams, Member Smith. Also present were Program Assistant Emily Nieves, City Arborist Dave Conser, GRU Forester Joe Wolf.

Present 4 - Member Smith, Member Frank, Member Manley, and Adams

Absent 2 - Chair Smith, and Student Seat Staten

3 New Business[200569.](#)

Annual Report of the Tree Advisory Board

Program Assistant, Emily Nieves, brought attention to a new annual report required by the city commission for all advisory boards within the city. The board discussed the requirements of the report and what to add to it. Chair Smith will need to present the report to the city commission. Member Adams would like to see community outreach and education on the report. Member Manley suggests a few points for the mission statement of the board. Member Smith brings up an ongoing issue happening on UF grounds. Member Smith condenses this issue to relate to the report by stating the University of Florida and the City of Gainesville need to work hand in hand together on many tree issues, instead of contradicting each other.

RECOMMENDATION

Suggest the main points that the Board would like to see highlighted in the report, and submit any written suggestions to Chair Smith. Once the report is completed by Chair Smith, city staff will distribute the draft to the Board for final review before it is sent to the Clerk's office.

4 Old Business[200308.](#)

2020 Urban Forestry Workshop Planning

The board discusses topics to address during the Urban Forestry Workshop. Member Adams stressed that providing CEUs will really help turn out.

RECOMMENDATION

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

[200197.](#)

Continue Discussions Regarding Tree Ordinance Revisions

The board reviews existing tree ordinances and tries to understand language and fix/update development and other tree protection requirements. Program Assistant

Nieves recommended the board table the discussion until after they research how other cities are enforcing individual tree codes. Member Adams emphasizes that public education should be the driving force of local tree government because a lot of property owners do not know that there are ordinances regarding privately owned trees.

RECOMMENDATION

Review proposed ordinance language and recommend revisions.

5 Public Works Update

Arborist Dave Conser reports that the City Management Plan has been completed and is ready to be presented to the city commission. New Horticulturalist Eric Kohnen has already planted 160 trees.

6 GRU Update

Forester Wolf updates that GRU is thinning the deerhaven property and attempting to get a burn done as well. Forester Wolf also mentions that laurel oaks are the most common species that causes power outages. Wolf also shows statistics for outages caused by trees.

7 Dept. of Sustainable Development Update

Inspector Proia shares with the board additions to the ordinances that change mitigation requirements in low income housing developments. Additionally, there is more new language that requires subdivisions to maximize preservation of high quality heritage trees.

8 Adjourn - 6:00 PM