

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

April 14, 2021

4:00 PM

City Hall, Roberta Lisle Room (Room 16), and Virtual

## **Tree Advisory Board**

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

*If you have a disability and need an accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at (352) 334-5051 at least two business days in advance. TTY (Text Telephone Telecommunication Device) users please call 711 (Florida Relay Service). For Speech to Speech (STS) relay, please call 1-877-955-5334. For STS Spanish relay, please call 1-877-955-8773. For STS French Creole relay, please call 1-877-955-8707.*

**CALL TO ORDER - 4:16 PM****ROLL CALL - 4:00 PM**

**Present** 6 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, Adams, Student Seat Staten, and Klein

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, Adams, and Klein

**Abstain:** 1 - Student Seat Staten

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**Aye:** 5 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, Adams, and Klein

**Abstain:** 1 - Student Seat Staten

[201066.](#)

Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of March 10, 2021 (B)

RECOMMENDATION

*The Tree Advisory Board approve the minutes of March 10, 2021.*

**OLD BUSINESS**[201067.](#)**Discuss City of Gainesville Recommended Tree List (B)**

Arborist Conser presented an in progress plant matrix for the board's review. Inspector Proia discussed how including shrubs and groundcovers was a staff deliverable required in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Discussion ensued. Member Adams asked how the list was determined. Member Manley asked if the shrub/groundcover lists were required or suggested. Both members recommended outreach and workshops to include FNGLA, IFAS, Landscape Architects, master gardeners and others to vet the matrix.

Arborist Conser explained the matrix was simply updated by staff and to be used for reference only, not for codification. The purpose of bringing it to the board was a high level review. Member Frank pointed out the list in Code was not the

same as the matrix. Member Manley suggested reviewing the existing tree list in code. Board agreed. Chair Smith asked for the members to review the tree list in code and come back to review it next month. Chair Smith stressed the importance of keeping this topic brief and to the point at the next meeting, not to get “lost in the weeds”.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Tree Advisory Board 1) hear presentation: and 2) make recommendations as appropriate.*

**200197.**

**Discuss City of Gainesville Tree Ordinance Revisions (B)**

Arborist Conser advised that these code/agenda items had already been discussed. Chair Smith suggested if the Board wanted more in depth discussions they should hold a separate workshop or develop a sub-committee. Member Adams suggested prioritizing the topics, Member Klein noticed the absence of Forest BMP's.

Arborist Conser described a potential property for acquisition (just to put it on the radar). The parcel is 91 acres, located in SW Gainesville, next to Payne's Prairie. Unfortunately the parcel is not in the City limits. Arborist Conser said the owner is willing to sell. Member Klein asked if the TMF revenues could be used, and is the area developable. TMF can be used to purchase land. Member Manley said the increase in wetland regulations precludes development in these types of areas. Chair Smith stressed the importance of more political support (who will champion land purchases?)

Chair Smith advised the board there is a current list of conservation land priorities developed by City Staff for Wild Spaces, but there hasn't been impetus or desire to buy property. Arborist Conser said the city's process constrain purchasing past the current appraised value, limiting bargaining. Member Frank questioned the appraisal process, stating opportunities are lost. Chair Smith brought up the need for a checklist/land ranking criteria (county vs city) and how it needs to be vetted. Member Frank said water mgt/wildlife corridors were important criteria.

Arborist Conser simply wanted to bring this parcel to the Board's attention, Member Frank asked if the current level of staffing affects purchases. Chair Smith brought the point of the current condition of potential properties and the amount work needed to bring them up to manageable conditions. Chair Smith suggested future meeting to review the current list of City Ranked properties and having the TAB voice their support for specific parcels. In conclusion Board agreed this would be the best use of their agenda time and within their purview.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Tree Advisory Board 1) discuss code revisions: and 2) make recommendations as appropriate.*

**200683.**

**Discuss Urban Forestry Outreach Presentation (NB)**

Board briefly discussed the community outreach program. Due to time constraints this item was postponed for the next meeting. Board agreed the goal would be to

translate the outline they developed to power point slides, developing a brief and clear message to the intended audience (the public). Board agreed this item should not take a large amount of agenda time. Member Klein brought up the idea of having a radio Public Service Announcement to which board agreed.

Member Adams has confirmed that Ed Gilman is on board for two virtual presentations next month (5/15 and 5/19), continuing outreach through virtual means.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Tree Advisory Board 1) hear presentation; and 2) make recommendations as appropriate.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **[201070.](#)**

#### **Potential Purchase of Urban Forestry Conservation Land (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Tree Advisory Board make recommendation whether to initiate purchasing procedures.*

## **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

City Arborist Dave Conser placed land purchase on high priority with TMF. He will be attending the City Commission meeting regarding budget decisions for their department. Interviews for Emily's position are being scheduled. He brought up the "trillion tree challenge" which aims to plant one trillion trees worldwide in an effort to replace the earth's tree canopy and combat climate change. This campaign was brought to their attention by a member of the public. Investigations of tree removals continue. Work towards including a PSA in the GRU bill stuffer continues.

## **PLANNING UPDATE**

Chelsea Proia showed the most recent balance in the Tree Mitigation Fund. She said there has been an increase in development as well as improvements in the development review process (benefiting City Staff, developers and all involved). Before any development is started they are required to pay tree mitigation fees up front (a good change for the system). Member Frank asked if there were any other expenditures than referenced on the spreadsheet, or ways to expand the funds use. Member Manley pointed out that ordinance language dictates the use of funds. However, it's important to use the funds, showing those who paid that their money is being wisely used and put back in the community. Storing them unused sends a wrong message.

## **GRU UPDATE**

Joe Wolf presented the final results of GRU's pole inspection and preservation program 19 out of 4100 poles (0.5%) were found to be rejects/need replacement, compared to a 10% replacement when the inspection started 25 years ago. Natural Gas and Biomass are the cheapest way to produce power. He

presented a handout showing recent whole tree failures causing power outages, the result of outage investigations. All whole tree failures had decay and came from private property, 30 feet or more from the wires outside the scope of line clearance operations - non preventable outages.

#### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Arborist Conser asked the board if this time and space worked for everyone and if they felt safe. Board agreed it did and appreciated the safety precautions and in person meeting. Next meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2021.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **ADJOURNMENT - 6:03 PM**