

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

June 16, 2021

4:00 PM

Public Works, Conference Room 234

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 - 4:12 PM**ROLL CALL - 4:00 PM**

Present 5 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Member Manley, Adams, and Klein

Absent 1 - Student Seat Staten

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Adams, that this matter be Adopted. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Adams, and Klein

Abstain: 1 - Member Manley

Absent: 1 - Student Seat Staten

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Klein, seconded by Member Manley, that this matter be Adopted. The motion CARRIED by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Member Frank, Chair Smith, Adams, and Klein

Abstain: 1 - Member Manley

Absent: 1 - Student Seat Staten

[201217.](#) Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of June 16, 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 Manley shared the draft Powerpoint Presentation on the screen so all could see it. The Board went through it slide by slide, reviewing and making changes. After the review, Chair Smith suggested the Board spend some more time looking at it for any further suggestions, sending those to Arborist Conser by 7/4/2021. Board agreed.

Board felt the presentation should be informative with the perspective of being

interactive, encouraging yet engaging and educational. Member Adams stressed being interactive. Chair Smith felt a blurb regarding contact information for Alachua County needed included as well as the differences between residential and commercial ordinances. Member Klein brought up the point of logistics (where will the presentations be held? Would they have the ability to use the laptop and broadcast it?), things to consider. Arborist Conser felt a slide showing the benefits of trees needed included (information from the UF Urban Forest Study). Board felt handouts would be a good idea. Could the TMF be used for printing these for public distribution? Collaboration with other groups was mentioned.

Member Klein felt “right tree, right place” was critical. Member Adams stressed proper planting. Both Member Klein and Adams felt getting the word out to use professional tree surgeons was a very important outreach topic. In conclusion, board felt the presentation may be too long. It may be better to break the information down into two separate ones, allowing for time constraints and question/answer sessions.

RECOMMENDATION

Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.

201067.

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

Board continued to review the shade tree list. Chair Smith asked what exactly this list was used for. Member Manley answered that this list is what you’re allowed to select from when submitting development plans. Inspector Proia clarified that the list is used primarily for new developments. Arborist Conser thought an understory tree list may be needed. Member Adams agreed. Member Adams asked if a tree is not on the list is it allowed for planting, to which Member Manley and Inspector Proia answered its typically allowed but not guaranteed to be allowed. Board continued to go through the list species by species.

Discussion then focused on the “high quality shade trees”. Member Klein noticed crossovers on the mitigation list. Inspector Proia and Chair Smith said the list was also used to protect existing tree species. Member Frank said that any invasive heritage sized tree needs to be removed. Would this tree need to be mitigated?

Member Klein said not only size but health and condition of the tree are so important. Discussion then centered on determining condition. In her experiences, Member Manley said condition rating can get very complicated very quickly. It can be somewhat subjective depending on the individual rating the tree. Hypothetically a developer or individual could hire another expert who could challenge condition rating. This can become costly and complicated quickly and also tie up resources and delay projects going through the development process. Based on her experiences she suggested to leave the process as is.

Arborist Conser closed discussion by suggesting developing a high quality understory tree list. Board agreed that would be a good idea.

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)**

Arborist Conser filled the empty position, new employee starts 7/5. His focus is now on hiring tree surgeons, moving forward on the watering contract, processing permits (which have increased) and installing 200 3 -gallon trees at Depot Park in the natural areas.

RECOMMENDATION

Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.

[201221.](#)**Planning Department Update (NB)**

Inspector Proia is involved in a multi department vegetation working group. The City Commission has requested a study the impacts of trees and vegetation on streetlights and improving nighttime illumination in Gainesville.

RECOMMENDATION

Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.

[201222.](#)**GRU Update (NB)**

Forester Wolf summarized the successful third party audit of the Forest Biomass Standards. He displayed electrical arcing in a branch that caused an outage. With storm season in force, he stressed electrical safety. He used the electrocution death of a retired GRU line worker as an example of how important safety is.

RECOMMENDATION

Tree Advisory Board to provide input as necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stefan from Big Trees felt the tree list was a good idea. He agreed a high quality list would be good for tree protection. From a nurseryman/grower perspective the list is limiting, as some of the species are not commercially available.

Member Klein was asked to pass on a comment from his neighbor in the downtown area. There is a community group of 30-40 citizens who are concerned about development in the downtown “power district” area. This area is city owned land where the old utility operations centers were located. They requested him to share their perspective and concern regarding tree removal with development.

MEMBER COMMENT**NEXT MEETING DATE - 07/14/2021****ADJOURNMENT - 6:21 PM**