

City of Gainesville

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601



Minutes - Final

November 9, 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)
Dana Willson (Student Seat)

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CALL TO ORDER - 4:04 PM**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent 1 - Adams

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Member Klein asked if the Board wanted to add an agenda item regarding the annual Urban Forestry Workshop, since it was held around this same time in the past. Discussion ensued regarding the timing and proposed format. Board agreed the virtual format from last year worked well versus the in-person meeting. Coordinator Schatz said he has already contacted a few individuals for speaking and the vision is to have a virtual presentation. Other presentations will be set up throughout the year, all will be put up on their website. This way, the public or interested parties can have a library format to browse and choose their presentation. Chair Smith asked if the Board wanted to add and discuss this now. Board chose to add this item to the next agenda.

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Manley, that the agenda be approved.

The motion to approve the agenda carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

Abstain: 1 - Willson

Absent: 1 - Adams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

210637. Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of October 13, 2021 (B)

A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Member Frank to approve the minutes of October 13th, 2021 and December 16th 2020.

Aye: 4 Member Frank, Member Klein, Member Manley, Chair Smith

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

Abstain: 1 - Willson

Absent: 1 - Adams

210641. Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of December 16, 2020 (B)

A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Member Frank to approve the minutes of October 13th, 2021 and December 16th 2020.

Aye: 4 Member Frank, Member Klein, Member Manley, Chair Smith

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

Abstain: 1 - Willson

Absent: 1 - Adams

GRU UPDATE

Forester Wolf provided update on vaccine mandate, loss of staff, current Asplundh tree trimming budget and the checks they do for invoice validation and fiscal responsibility. County staff Hong asked questions regarding biomass procurement to which Wolf answered. She had some further questions which they agreed to discuss after the meeting. GRU staff has found a handful of dead pines off right of way in main corridors that they have removed to ensure safety and reliability. He also provided the daily generation report showing costs for producing electricity by fuels (Coal, gas, biomass) Biomass was again the cheapest and most efficient way to produce power. He finished by summarizing the streetlight change out from metal halide to LED (per commission request) and subsequent request for trimming.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Arborist Conser discussed the movement, directed by the commission to trim streetlights for illumination. Final numbers were finished and will be submitted for consideration. Options were to trim all the lights on a one, two and three year basis. Trimming would be done by contract crews, most likely Asplundh. Member Klein asked if a light pollution study was conducted prior to the LED decision. There was no study as the lights shine downwards, and don't shine upwards. The recent pedestrian fatalities were the impetus for trimming. The father of one of the girls killed pleaded to the commission to not have this happen to anyone else. He also met with GPD on a night tour of current illumination and is working with them to address high crime areas.

Arborist Conser related a recent illegal live oak removal at 1750 SW 13th Street. The case went to the magistrate and the party was fined 26K. He pointed out that many developers are willing to pay mitigation for removals versus saving trees

(mostly happening prior to development). This points to the need for updating the Tree Appraised Value calculation. Member Manley asked it to be put on the agenda and included on an annual basis for review.

Arborist Conser provided a balance for the TMF. They currently have more in the fund than they are spending. Chair Smith commented this is a good problem in many ways, but the balance is always going to be examined by others. He commented the best use is to purchase conservation lands, Member Frank agreed but expressed frustration about how the process is limited by the appraised value of the land and therefore prevents negotiation. Arborist Conser is pursuing the Tree Inventory on City owned property. He also said the Horticulturist is now being provided by a helper, current staff member in Public Works. This is a great help to have more trees planted. The Tree Surgeon 2 position was filled, there is only one opening.

Member Klein asked about maintenance timing following the first illumination cycle. Student Member Wilson asked about who would be doing the oversight of crews and their trimming. Arborist Conser's staff will supervise their work.

PLANNING UPDATE

There was no Planning Update

DISCUSSION

[201067.](#)

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

Board continued through the tree list species by species. Board debated these points with each species: how many examples are out there and where have they seen them. Where they have seen them used in the landscape. Specific examples of success and failures. All members discussed the nursery availability of the species on the list. Board felt if the species was not currently grown, the inclusion in the list would be a good thing and foster demand, which in turn would place the underused trees in the landscape. I did not record specific comments by each species, but each Board member contributed the following principles relating to all species in their discussion.

Member Frank clarified and answered botanical and taxonomic questions. He commented on adaptability to hard freezes and resistance to pests. He advocated for tree species with historical value, citing specific examples.

Member Manley shared her experiences with code and ordinances, plan review and development processes. She cited specific examples of species that work with code and those that didn't. Her comments also referenced the Tree Appraised Value system. She cited examples of TAV calculations and their impacts on development process, both from her side and the developer's side. Her vision was to have a practical, workable list

Chair Smith kept Board on track and focused. He made sure all questions were answered and all voices heard. He also shared personal experiences and stressed diversity.

Arborist Conser shared his experiences within the city and Alachua County. He

focused on the prevalence of species, the locations of specific example trees, his interactions with the public and their perspective on the species.

Member Klein stressed long term maintenance, hazards as the age (cavities, rot), and availability. He stressed diversity and considering future pest and disease implications.

Larsen McBride shared his personal experiences with species in the urban landscapes of Gainesville and New York City. His comments focused on decay resistance, species quality and species abundance in landscapes. He shared specific examples.

Board ended discussing the Arizona Cypress.

RECOMMENDATION

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larsen's and Ms. Hong's public comments were included throughout the meeting. Chair Smith made sure to ask them for input when discussing items.

MEMBER COMMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE - 12/9/2021

ADJOURNMENT - 6:00PM