

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

June 8, 2022

4:00 PM

Thomas Center Room 105

## **Tree Advisory Board**

*Marc Frank (Member)*  
*C. Elisabeth Manley (Member)*  
*Ryan Klein (Member)*  
*Larsen McBride (Member)*  
*Erick Smith (Member)*  
*Dana Willson (Student Seat)*

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**CALL TO ORDER - 4:08PM****ROLL CALL**

Present 4 -Chair Smith, Member McBride, Member Willson, Member Manley, Member Frank. Also present were City Arborist Dave Conser, GRU Forester Joe Wolf, Coordinator Sam Schatz, Urban Forestry Inspector Chelsea Proia,

**Present** 5 - Member Frank, Member Manley, Member Willson, Member McBride, and Member Smith

**Absent** 1 - Member Klein

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Manley that the agenda be approved, moving the CAPE presentation forward to accommodate the guests.

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

**Aye:** 5 - Member Frank, Member Manley, Member Willson, Member McBride, and Member Smith

**Absent:** 1 - Member Klein

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES****[211292.](#)**

Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of May 11, 2022 (B)

A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Member Frank the minutes of 5/11 be approved.

**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 Frank, Member Manley, Member Willson, Member McBride, and Member Smith

**Absent:** 1 - Member Klein

**GRU UPDATE**

Forester Wolf asked for the Board to provide feedback on their independent review of his Vegetation Management program. Member Frank suggested Board members review the proposal, add and edit as needed and finalize this Motion next meeting. Board agreed.

## **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

Streetlight trimming has begun. Coordinator Schatz said they have been receiving advice and training for making their purchasing and administrative work easier. The Sr. Horticulturist job is moving through the ranks and job description review process. Watering newly planted trees is a priority. Gainesville has been awarded Bee City USA distinction.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Inspector Proia discussed the need for plan review for internal projects. Currently there is no review for these plantings. There is discussion regarding pedestrian lighting improvements for the downtown area. The TMF had one million dollar deposit from the Finley Woods Project. She also mentioned staff are aware of the TMF balance and discussing potential use. Member Manley said the Board's frustration with recent failed land purchases need to be documented and presented in a summary. The summary should show the number of projects, the total acreages the TAB evaluated over the last several years. It should also show they all failed to be purchased due to the limited bargaining and negotiation with City policies. The lands not purchased and benefits lost need to be presented in a clear and concise summary. Board agreed unanimously. Staff Schatz said he would review the minutes and accumulate the data for the Board.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Alachua County chapter of Community Action Project for the Environment (CAPE)**

A group of students gave a presentation of their perspectives regarding recent commercial developments in the community. They presented specific examples, displaying their concerns regarding replanting of trees following construction. Their presentation is included as a link in the agenda.

Inspector Proia ensured CAPE the projects went through Development Review and are compliant with code and the LDC. Member Manley echoed Inspector Proia's statement. Her staff worked on three of the developments presented and all were code compliant. Chair Smith, Member Frank, Member McBride all agreed the current Development Review Process and the communication between developers and reviewers works well.

Forester Wolf said it's very hard to summarize a decade or more of work in the space of 30 minutes following their presentation. He commented if they move forward with their presentation, they need to include the Board feedback and correct it to make it accurate.

Chair Smith supported the CAPE's positive and inquisitive attitude. He said a fresh perspective is necessary and appreciated. The Board and Staff know what is compliant from experience. The public perceives what looks good and what doesn't. There are no easy answers to their questions but education is important. He and the other members (staff also) offered to meet them and continue discussion and education at any time. Member Frank suggested moving forward and presenting this to codes and the commission. Member McBride, Chair Smith agreed

**211294. Tree Advisory Board review of Gainesville Regional Utilities Vegetation Management Department**

RECOMMENDATION      *The TAB reviews and approves of Gainesville Regional Utilities Vegetation Management Department*

210900.      **Proposed Revision to Gainesville's Code (B)**

Arborist Conser is investigating supplying trees to citizens for planting on private property, he hopes it will pass attorney review. Member Frank asked about the process for code changes. Arborist Conser summarized it goes to Planning Department, then to Legal for review, to Department of Sustainable Development, to Commission presentation, to the public for inspection then back to the Commission for adoption. Forester Wolf related his experiences with prior code changes. The process has taken several years, TAB members change, Commission Members rotate and City Staff changes - a lot of turnover and time from the beginning to the end. It takes diligence to follow through. Board felt the following topics needed addressed in code: the need for oversight and accountability and its cost, the realistic mortality of trees during establishment (50% may die, but that is typical, getting trees planted and doing the best we can is key), making sure to protect High Quality Heritage trees and the dire need to improve the land acquisition process. Being able to purchase land with TMF funds is the best use of the fund - unanimous agreement. Coordinator Schatz recorded Board's specific comments in the code.

RECOMMENDATION      *The Tree Advisory Board discuss, amend, and approve of the proposed code revisions.*

201067.      **Discuss Updated Approved Tree List for the Tree Ordinance (B)**

Arborist Conser suggested a Zoom meeting to finish the review of the tree list. Board agreed.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anjana Dassa, Architect enjoyed the Board's discussion. Her question was: Is there any data as to which trees are where? For example in Japan their sacred trees are mapped, allowing the public to visit them. Is there anything similar in Gainesville? Arborist Conser said no, but brought up the UF assessment which shows species

composition. Ms Dassa thanked the Board for their time, Board said meetings are open and they would welcome her back anytime she wanted.

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**NEXT MEETING DATE - July 13th**

**ADJOURNMENT - 6:09PM**