

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



## **Minutes - Final**

July 13, 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 - 4:05PM****ROLL CALL**

Present 5 -Chair Smith, Member McBride, Member Willson, Member Manley, Member Klein and Member Frank. Also present were City Arborist Dave Conser, GRU Forester Joe Wolf, Coordinator Sam Schatz Nature Operations Manager Linda Demetropolis and City Communications Suzette Cook.

**Present** 6 - Member Frank, Member Manley, Member Klein, Member Willson, Member McBride, and Member Smith

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****Approve Agenda**

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

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

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

**Abstain:** 1 - Member Willson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**211408.** Approval of Minutes from the Tree Advisory Board Meeting of June 08, 2022 (B)

**Approve Minutes**

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

**A motion was made by Member Frank, seconded by Member Manley, that this Matter be Adopted (Resolution). The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Abstain:** 1 - Member Willson

**GRU UPDATE****GRU Update**

Biomass is still the cheapest and most cost effective way to produce power. The main lines in our system have been rode and inspected for danger trees - standard

procedure several times a year and also before hurricane season. Vine patrol is in effect. Vine outages increase during the summer. The City's efforts to trim streetlights for illumination are providing benefits for GRU. We're thankful for the program. Forester Wolf detailed two recent customer issues where the customers did not agree with our decisions. One customer called her commissioner, escalating the issue. GRU assesses all requests in a fair and honest manner. We're required to follow policy and treat everyone the same, explaining to customers if we break policy for one, we set a precedent and have to make an exception for everyone.

## **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

### **Public Works Update**

Arborist Conser advised the Board of recent issues arising with the existing trees planted downtown. Roots are pushing up bricks, citizens are tripping and suing the city. Roots are affecting one business causing drainage problems. They are in the process of assessing every street tree, looking at options to address the issues and looking forward to solutions. This is all preliminary but tree wells, silva cells, root grinding, redoing streets and eliminating parking spaces to make tree planting sites were all discussed. He mentioned the use of Silva Cells was questioned by their Director, who had reservations about them. Member Klein asked why spend funding to address these issues when these problems can happen again in the future. Member Manley advised that the TMF paid for Silva cells on NW 1st Avenue project and the Blount Center. Member Frank asked why the Director doesn't like Silva cells.

Member Manley brought up Winter Park and Charlotte, NC as cities to see how they handle street trees. They have the same vision as our commission. Chair Smith agrees, find out what works elsewhere and don't reinvent the wheel. Member Willson brought up the idea of selling the street bricks if they have to be removed for any future projects.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

### **Department of Sustainable Development Update**

There was no update.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Nature Operations Update**

Manager Demetropolis reminded the Board they approved the use of TMF funds for hardwood control in Bouleware Springs. Follow up prescribed burns have been conducted on this site and the results are great. She encouraged members to visit the site. They are now targeting San Felasco park for wildfire mitigation and habitat restoration. As land becomes available her department is always looking at parcels to acquire. Member Klein asked when the last acquisition using TMF? February 2021 they purchased the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Park parcel.

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

**Tree Advisory Board Review of  
Gainesville Regional Utilities Vegetation Management  
Department**

GRU's utility vegetation management (UVM) program provides multiple social and economic benefits to the utility infrastructure, the citizens and businesses of Gainesville, and our City's urban forest. A significant portion of our urban forest is located within utility rights-of-way, and UVM personnel are valuable partners in managing it in accordance with industry standards. We endorse the program and recognize it as a critical facet of urban forestry best management practices.

UVM employees staff 17 contract crews responsible for maintaining over 1500 miles of powerlines and easements. Their work supports the entire utility and affects operations at City of Gainesville Planning, City of Gainesville Public Works, Alachua County Public Works, and the citizens of Gainesville. UVM insures public health and safety as it relates to trees, people, and reliable utility service.

UVM staff regularly attend Tree Advisory Board meetings, offering insight from the field and contributing to holistic, fact-based guidance of our City's urban forest management. UVM staff are a partner contributing institutional knowledge that helps maximize the benefits of trees and minimize the associated risk.

We, the City of Gainesville Tree Advisory Board, value our partnership with the UVM program, and for the aforementioned reasons put forth our recommend that it be adequately staffed and budgeted to ensure safe operations and reliable service. Any budget reductions to the program are likely to result in increased outages, safety concerns and long-term cost increases.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**210900.**

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

**Tree Advisory Board's Suggested Revision:**

*Land Development Code, Sec. 30-8.7, C.2*

*2. Mitigation payment. Mitigation payment shall be based on tree appraised value, or as otherwise specified in this code. Payment shall be made prior to the approval of a final development order, or prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy for any development requiring only building permits. Mitigation payments received by the city shall be deposited in the city tree mitigation fund, which must be used in accordance with this subsection.*

*This fund may be used for*

- a) *new tree and native landscape planting and establishment on city-owned property, including purchase of trees, irrigation supplies, mulch, equipment, staking materials, fertilizer, and contractual services*
- b) *purchase and supply of trees for planting on private property, with adequate and appropriate oversight and accountability, as determined by the City Manager or designee*
- c) *structural pruning of trees on city-owned property*
- d) *the preservation of tree canopy (with an emphasis on preserving high quality tree species) through the purchase of conservation lands, and associated acquisition costs including survey, fencing, appraisal, and invasive control*
- e) *site preparation and planting and / or natural regeneration of native forests*
- f) *an ecological assessment of the urban forest every five years and for an update of the urban forest management plan every ten years*
- g) *arboriculture, landscape architecture, engineering and other professional services related to the development of landscaping plans*
- h) *city employee or intern positions that support the above programs*

*This fund shall not be used for regularly scheduled right-of-way tree trimming/maintenance or toward the installation of new trees that would already be required for a development.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**A motion was made by Member Manley, seconded by Member Frank, that this Matter be Adopted (Resolution) as modified. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Abstain:** 1 - Member Willson

**[201067.](#)**

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

Board will discuss this list via Zoom.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment

**MEMBER COMMENT**

There was no member comment

**NEXT MEETING DATE - August 10th**

**ADJOURNMENT - 5:49PM**