



Tree Preservation Board Minutes

October 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

City Hall Commission Chamber
401 S Park Ave | Winter Park, Florida

Present

Kim Ashby, Steve Carras, Christina Schloot, Melanie Love, Jill Bendick, Rebecca Gallardo, and Christine Girand

Absent

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Kim Ashby at 5:03pm

2. Consent Agenda

3. Citizen Comments (for items not on the agenda)

4. Public Hearings

5. Action Items

a. Tree Removal Appeal - 1445 Bonnie Burn Circle

Stefano Alvernia, Urban Forestry Superintendent, presented the case to the Board. Christine Girand inquired if the neighboring property had any input regarding the removal of the tree and if the tree poses any future issues pertaining to utilities. Josh Nye, Parks Services Manager, pointed out that undergrounding is complete in that area and removal of the tree does not pose any issues.

Motion made by Jill Bendick, seconded by Christina Schloot, to uphold the denial of the permit. Motion carries unanimously.

b. Tree Removal Appeal - 1631 Hillcrest Ave.

Mr. Alvernia presented the case to the Board. Ms. Bendick inquired exact location of the tree in question, how much pruning would need to be done, and how much of an impact the pruning would have on the health of the tree. Mr. Alvernia informed the Board that pruning would definitely need to be done but the goal is to minimize root damage. He stated with it being a young hardy tree, he believes it should definitely make a come-back and flourish. Mr. Carras asked how much of the root system will be damaged during the process. Mr. Alvernia stated roughly fifty percent would be affected.

Motion made by Rebecca Gallardo, seconded by Jill Bendick, to uphold the denial of the permit. Motion carries unanimously.

6. Non-Action Items

a. Regular Meeting Frequency

Mr. Nye reviewed the cancellation policy with the Board and discussion ensued.

b. Expansion of parking lot islands at S. Knowles and Welbourne Aves.

Mr. Nye presented the planned expansion to the Board with photos depicting the goal of keeping the trees healthy and confirming the need to expand the root zone for the trees. The trees are showing an estimated three years of stress growth at their bases. Cutting and reforming the curbs was discussed but this would cause damage and stress to the trees also and would not resolve the issue of limited root zone for the trees to flourish. If the trees are left as is, they will suffer die back and die much sooner than need be. Mr. Nye stressed the fact that we would not be able to get specimens such as these back in that area. Ms. Girand wanted to confirm this was City property and if the parking spaces are needed in order to meet code requirements. Mr. Nye informed the board that the issue has been discussed with other city staff and does not feel it is an issue. Mr. Alvernia informed the board that there was an onsite meeting and spaces need to be renovated to accommodate larger vehicles and also referenced the increased green space will bring more walkability to the area.

7. Staff Updates

a. Tree Law Amendment

Mr. Nye provided an overview of the amendment that took place on July 1, 2022 making the law much clearer. Urban Forestry compiled a contact list of developers, contractors, tree companies, etc. and sent emails to all of them informing them of the amendment. The goal of the email blast was to notify everyone in the industry because it isn't just a Winter Park problem, it's a problem for municipalities across Florida and we want to help everyone get back in line with their code not that there is legal support to do so. We also provided links to sample risk assessment reports and the Florida ISA website resources. The Board stated they are in support of the amendment, they are interested to see how it plays out, and they appreciate Staff keeping them up to date on the changes.

8. Board Comments

Ms. Bendick inquired about educating the community on diversity, promoting proper tree care, etc. Ms. Ashby suggested maybe using the Run for the Trees event to promote Urban Forestry and all of the work they do. Mr. Carras suggested promoting the work Urban Forestry does and the support received from the Board in the City newsletter. Mr. Nye informed the Board that Urban Forestry will have a booth in Mead Gardens for the Growvember event on November 5th.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

/s/ Recording Secretary Laura Halsey