



Tree Preservation Board Minutes

January 24, 2023 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

Absent

Christine Girand

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Kim Ashby at 5:00pm

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of the October 25, 2022 Minutes

Motion made by Steve Carras, seconded by Jill Bendick, to approve the minutes with the addition of “tree” in front of diversity under item 8 - Board Comments. Motion carries unanimously.

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

Terry Bryant, 1831 Windsor Dr., thanked the Board for their services and inquired about root systems. Ms. Bryant wanted to know if there are any cedar trees going in at Progress Point. Mr. Nye stated general species resources would be USDA or USIFAS that pertain more specifically to our area. Cedars are an interesting species and staff has been learning more and more about them. They are resistant to decay and are evergreens, they are more fragile so they are best placed where they are not exposed to human damage.

4. Public Hearings

5. Action Items

a. Regular Meeting day change from Tuesday to Thursday

Mr. Nye proposed the change to the Board due to Mr. Alvernia's availability. Ms. Bendick feels that the change is possible and should not be a problem. Mr. Carras has a standing commitment on Thursdays and so it was consensus of the Board that the meetings remain on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Carras asked that the agenda be emailed to the Board earlier than one week.

Motion made by Christina Schloot, seconded by Rebecca Gallardo, to keep the current meeting schedule. Motion carries unanimously.

6. Non-Action Items

7. Staff Updates

a. Progress Point - Soil treatment for trees

Mr. Nye explained the treatment slows the outward growth of the newly planted trees and allow them to focus energy on creating a thicker and greener canopy as well as establishing a healthy root system. Mr. Carras asked if it has been proven to be a successful process and what the timeline would be before we know if it was successful. Mr. Nye stated the trees will respond in different stages - some may take off when the rains come in the Spring and some may not take off until Summer but he feels we will see the results in the darker leafier canopies of the trees. Ms. Ashby inquired if our use of the process has been publicized. Mr. Nye agreed that would be a good idea and will look into it. Ms. Bendick asked if grass would be placed in the areas and Mr. Nye assured her that there will be additional landscaping and sod will not be placed at the base of the trees.

b. Tree Specialist hired

Mr. Nye informed the Board of Glenn Andree being hired as our Tree Specialist and that his main focus will be watering as well as training pruning, staking & strapping, general maintenance. The goal is to bring a level of focus on the care and maintenance of our replanting efforts. Ms. Ashby asked for confirmation that the best benefit of the position outside of increased tree care is that it will save tax dollars. Mr. Nye stated the savings will allow staff to shift funds for proper lifting care and maintenance.

c. December 13, 2022 Community Engagement Meeting overview

Mr. Nye stated Leslie Poole and a second resident spoke with Ms. Bendick and himself about what staff has been doing and how they can support them in expanding community engagement and other initiatives that can improve the community canopy program. Topics included how the land trust could be involved and funding for other projects.

8. Board Comments

Ms. Ashby inquired if Mr. Nye has had any opportunities to speak in other forums to share his expertise and knowledge of the tree canopy such as the State of the City Luncheon.

Ms. Gallardo inquired about the Laurel Oaks that were removed on Brewers curve.

Mr. Nye stated the Laurel Oaks were removed about four years ago due to basal damage and or limb issues. He has targeted the area for replanting and would like to partner with Sustainability for a future event.

Ms. Schloot inquired about parking on New England Ave. Mr. Nye has not heard of any movement pertaining to the issue this far but will ask for updates.

Mr. Carras inquired about the signage along Cady Way needing to be replaced and Mr. Nye is going to reach out to staff about having it completed.

Ms. Ashby inquired about the Run for the Trees Event and if there is anything the

Board needs to be doing to help promote the event. Mr. Nye stated he will be ordering trees in the next couple of weeks for the event.

Ms. Gallardo inquired about the tree along the canal and Mr. Nye informed the Board that it has been decided by staff that the best course of action is to remove the low hanging limb.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

Ms. Ashby would like her suggestion of a “Tree House” kiosk to be discussed at the next meeting. She suggested a table with an interactive iPad or kiosk that people can utilize to learn more about our tree canopy, tree care, the importance of trees, etc. Possibly use the “Tree House” as a way to educate neighboring schools and students on the benefits of trees.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

/s/ Recording Secretary Laura Halsey