



Tree Preservation Board Regular Meeting

Agenda

January 23, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

welcome

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please note

Times are projected and subject to change.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approve the minutes of October 24, 2023
- 3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker**
- 4. Public Hearings (Public participation and comment on these matters must be in person.)**
- 5. Action Items**
- 6. Non-Action Items**
- 7. Staff Updates**
 - a. Staff Updates:
 - GROWvember 2023
 - Christmas Decorations
 - TreeKeeper Canopy
 - Florida Urban Forestry Council Article
- 8. Board Comments**
- 9. Upcoming Agenda Items**
- 10. Adjournment**



Tree Preservation Board

agenda item

item type

Consent Agenda

meeting date

January 23, 2024

prepared by

Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator

approved by**subject**

Approve the minutes of October 24, 2023

motion | recommendation**background****strategic objectives****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. TPB Draft Minutes - 10.24.23



Tree Preservation Board Regular Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Melanie Love, Kim Ashby, Steve Carras, Christina Schloot, Rebecca Rich Gallardo, Jill Bendick

Absent

Christine E. Girand

Staff

Parks Services Manager Josh Nye, Superintendent Jordan Hinrichsen, Arborist JJ Rodriguez, Recreation Coordinator Laura Halsey

1. Call to Order

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of September 26, 2023

Motion made by Steve Carras, seconded by Christina Schloot, to approve the August 22, 2023 and the September 26, 2023 minutes.

Motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Bendick joined the meeting immediately following the approval of both sets of minutes.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

4. Public Hearings (Public participation and comment on these matters must be in person.)

5. Action Items

6. Non-Action Items

7. Staff Updates

a. Tree Law Seminar Presentation

Mr. Nye, Parks Services Manager, provided a brief overview to the Board pertaining to the amended tree ordinance allowing Urban Forestry staff to enforce the tree preservation ordinance once again.

b. Winter Park Land Trust Tree Committee Forum

Mr. Nye provided a brief overview of the meeting and its contents. Ms. Ashby also spoke about the event, how well it covered the do's and don'ts of enforcement, and inquired if staff should establish a "save the date" for next year's meeting. Mr. Nye will reach out to the Tree Committee representatives to establish a 2024 date.

c. Seven Oaks Trees

Mr. Nye informed the board that the health of two of the recently planted trees had declined and he believes it was due to an irrigation issue. Although we received a substantial amount of rain, the newly planted large trees still require a large amount of irrigation. The two trees in question seem to be recovering and he believes they will survive and thrive. Once they have had time to recover, staff will apply fertilizer to further assist their health.

d. The Pines Patio Project

Mr. Nye provided a status update on the patio project and the variety of trees that have been planted. He informed the board of the work and effort put forth by city staff to complete the enhancements of the golf course. Board requested staff provide visuals of the progress at the next meeting.

e. Ward Park Volunteer Planting

Mr. Nye updated the board on the project at Ward Park that was implemented in partnership with the Sustainability department. The event drew in about fifty volunteers and was overall a very successful event. He also mentioned the Backyard Biodiversity event, which was also a success, providing several trees to local residents.

8. Board Comments

Chairperson Ashby complimented the staff on their diligent efforts on recent projects and enforcement of the ordinance. She also requested that staff work toward bringing her treehouse project to fruition, perhaps starting at city hall with a small kiosk. She would also like to see information and updates on behalf of the Urban Forestry department to be included in utility bills and monthly mailings, as she feels it is very important to educate the residents and visitors of the importance of trees, and all of the hard work the department does pertaining to the canopy. What does Florida Law allow us to do and where are the boundaries as far as enforcement, which tree services would be interested in volunteering to assist with tree planting, advertising watershed clean-up events using an outlet such as EventBrite. She will provide staff with a bullet-

point list of projects/events to be discussed and voted on that can then be presented to the Tree Committee and be put into action.

Ms. Hinrichsen, Superintendent, reminded the board of the upcoming Growvember event at Mead Gardens on November 11th.

Mr. Carras asked what the next logical step would be to get the ball rolling on some of the items mentioned by Ms. Ashby.

Mr. Nye would like it to be something more intentional and based on a practice, mentioning the Miyawaki Method, a Japanese form of tree planting. He feels partnering with middle schools, Rollins College students, and local groups would be a great starting point.

Ms. Ashby would like to create educational materials to furnish at local schools to help educate students and increase interest in and understanding of planting trees. Ms. Schloot suggested partnering with the library as they giveaway seeds to students and residents. Ms. Gallardo supported the library suggestion, stating most new construction does not have established trees. Mrs. Bendick followed up by suggesting focusing on working in conjunction with Arbor Day.

9. Upcoming Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Kim Ashby at 5:47

Minutes approved by Board on
/s/Laura Halsey

ATTEST:



Tree Preservation Board

agenda item

item type

Staff Updates

meeting date

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Staff Updates:

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1. Page 4 from councilquarterly24v1

PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE: UTILITY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FOR A SYSTEM GOING UNDERGROUND

Submitted by By Josh Nye – Park Services Manager, City of Winter Park; ISA Certified Arborist & TRAQ



If you're familiar with utility vegetation management (UVM), you've heard it before: "They're butchering the trees!" Despite the fact that reliable power is a necessity for so many aspects of our lives, it's easy to forget when you're looking through a V-shaped canyon carved out of your favorite tree. It falls to utility arborists and vegetation managers to explain the need for this type of pruning. Often our explanations fall flat.

What if you could make that problem go away? What if there was a plan to underground the entire overhead electrical distribution system? The City of Winter Park did just that. In 2003, Winter Park residents voted to purchase the electric utility from Progress Energy. At that time the system was plagued with vegetation-caused outages. As a result, excessive pruning often took place. This only served to anger the public further and did little to improve electrical reliability. The frequent outages and poorly pruned trees proved too much for exasperated residents. So, they decided to take matters into their own hands with a purpose-driven plan. On June 1, 2005, the City celebrated the official "flipping the switch" from an investor-owned utility to municipal ownership.

Winter Park's undergrounding project got underway in earnest in 2008. Over the ensuing 15 years nearly 100 miles of overhead line went underground. Today there are only around 35 miles left to go. Should the current schedule hold, by 2030 Winter Park Electric Utility will become one of the only completely underground electrical systems in the country. On its face this seems to imply less work for the City's Urban Forestry Division. Nothing could be further from the truth. The electric utility isn't the only thing changing for Winter Park's renowned canopy. Other forces at work are bringing together a confluence of shifting priorities as the UVM program sunsets.

From the 1960's to 1990's, Winter Park planted thousands of laurel oaks (*Quercus laurifolia*) on City rights-of-way. The large shade tree is relatively short-lived with poor response to decay and disease. The species' weaknesses were laid bare in 2004 when Hurricane Charley tore through Central Florida, felling or seriously damaging thousands of trees. Winter Park lost a significant portion of its canopy in just a few hours. In the following years thousands more laurel oaks were removed due to the numerous structural and health issues caused by natural aging and excessive decay from storm damage.

Simultaneously, a great effort was made by the City and its community partners to begin the long process of replanting. A purpose-driven canopy replaced the laurel oak population with its more robust and long-lived cousin, the Southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) along with a range of other species for increased diversity. By 2020 the transition away from an urban forest dominated by over-mature, structurally compromised laurel oaks was well underway.

This new reality leaves Winter Park with an enviable problem. There are now thousands of young street trees that require routine maintenance pruning over roads, sidewalks, and other infrastructure. Just as the light at



the end of the tunnel appears for electrical undergrounding, the time and resources spent on UVM is now shifting towards proactive and gradual directional pruning for street trees. By employing ANSI A300 standards and best management practices Winter Park hope to preserve as much of the trees' natural forms as possible. As a result, rather than acting as apologists for unsightly but necessary UVM pruning, our City arborists can engage with residents more constructively regarding the importance of tree preservation, tree planting and proper tree care. In this way we hope to drive a sense of purpose for the canopy and encourage the community to help nurture Winter Park's beloved urban forest.

