



# Tree Preservation Board Regular Meeting Minutes

**January 23, 2024 at 5:00 PM**

City Hall Commission Chambers  
401 S. Park Avenue

## **Present**

Christina Schloot, Jill Bendick, Kim Ashby, and Rebecca Gallardo

## **Absent**

Melanie Love, Christine E. Girand

## **Staff Present**

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

## **1. Call to Order**

## **2. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve the minutes of October 24, 2023

**Motion made by Jill Bendick, seconded by Christina Schloot, to approve the October 24, 2023 minutes. Motion passes 4-0.**

## **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

Josh Nye, Parks Services Manager, provided a brief update on the GROWvember event and acknowledged Urban Forestry staff for their hard work on making the city's holiday lighting installations a success.

Mr. Nye reviewed the TreeKeeper Canopy program and how it can improve efforts to improve and diversify the tree canopy. He also provided a brief walk-through of the software to the Board. This allowed the Board to have a visual of what functions the program provides and how it can assist staff with planning, planting, tracking, and inventory efforts, as well as serve as a reference tool. The Board inquired about impervious effects and elaboration on what DRG stands for and what they do. The Board also asked if there are other municipalities functioning in the same manner as Winter Park as far as tree canopy urban forestry practices are concerned. Mr. Nye stated he would be gathering data to present at a later date. The Board asked if the program would be able to assist in assessing storm damage and canopy loss.

Mr. Nye reviewed the article he had published in the Florida Urban Forestry newsletter. The overview of the article discussed the electrical undergrounding efforts in the City of Winter Park and how it benefits the community. With there being only about 35 miles left to be moved underground, the project will be completed by 2030, making it one of the only completely undergrounded electrical systems in the country. The Board inquired as to why the younger trees require pruning and Mr. Nye explained how pruning/training of young trees can avoid issues later and also help the tree develop better. The Board suggested providing a link or another avenue for getting the article out to those who would be interested. Mr. Nye will be creating a powerpoint presentation on the article topic and will reach out to communications about sharing the article and presentation.

## **8. Board Comments**

The Board also inquired about the progress point project. Mr. Nye provided an update on the trees on that lot and that staff will be doing another treatment on the trees next month. While it may take a long time, he believes the tree that was damaged by the super-cell will eventually recover. There has not been a final decision on whether the tree will be left to recover or if it will be replaced with a healthier tree prior to the park opening.

The Board inquired about a new construction home on Pennsylvania Ave and the trees that are being protected on the property, as they are not looking very healthy. Mr. Nye stated they have had some damage due to the construction, but the oaks are very

resilient, and he believes they will recover. Another inquiry was about Quail Hollow and Mr. Nye stated the city's public works department will be working on improvements in that area, so trees were assessed and discussed. They identified eleven trees for removal based on the health of the trees and or if the trees were hazardous. A replanting plan is already in discussion for the area, so the canopy will be replaced.

Mrs. Bendick commented on the idea of a champion tree and would like to resurrect the discussion to bring that to fruition. Mr. Nye is supportive of the suggestion and would also like to see it happen. He may be able to add a layer in TreeKeeper Canopy that would help identify and track those trees nominated and listed as champion trees for future reference.

The Board also reminded staff that Run for the Trees is April 27th this year, and they would like staff to help promote the event.

## **9. Upcoming Agenda Items**

## **10. Adjournment**

Approved by the board on  
/s/ Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator