



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 Jorden 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: