



Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board Work Session Minutes

July 16, 2024 at 10:30 AM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Stephen Pategas, Terry Hotard, Sam Stark

Absent

Staff Present

Sustainability Specialist Mia Brady, Parks Services Manager Josh Nye, Director of Planning & Zoning Allison McGillis, Sustainability Manager Sara Miller (virtual), Administrative Coordinator Victoria Tabor

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Brady called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

2. Discussion Item

a. Landscape Ordinance

Mr. Pategas presented the existing Winter Park landscape ordinance that he helped write. He informed the group that the tree ordinance had been updated and there are new stormwater requirements. As a professional landscape architect, Mr. Pategas considered the importance of tying in the updated tree codes and new stormwater requirements with a revised landscape ordinance. The current landscape ordinance is standard and outdated.

Approximately ten (10) years ago, the City of Orlando created a form-based code. A copy of the code was provided. A contracted landscape designer will fill out an excel spreadsheet with the goal of receiving a certain number of points for their project. Knowledge of the site area, the type of development, the impervious area, saving existing trees that are over the number of inches within the tree code, the landscape area, the turf area, the number of plants and types of plants. More points are given for good plants that are beneficial, wildlife pollinators and even edibles. Mr. Pategas stated that this type of code is more in alignment with Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable and stormwater management.

Orlando still has requirements such as X number of trees along a right of way, or along a property line, or a tree in every island in a parking lot. The point system is for any commercial project in Orlando. Residential projects in Orlando do not require it. Mr. Nye stated he is familiar with the Orlando code as it gives developers and property owners more flexibility. It is easier for them to meet code. Mr. Pategas stated that whoever's reviewing the plans for the city, will need to be knowledgeable or at least do a little bit of research and check on things as new plants emerge. Mr. Pategas suggested cleaning up the irrigation codes because technology has changed with irrigation.

Mr. Nye asked if the landscape revision proposal will be similar to Orlando's. Mr. Pategas affirmed and stated the ordinances may remain different. Orange County's code has sod in parking lot islands as disallowed as the intent is to reduce the need for water. If you eliminate the turf placed in ground cover plants or shrubs, you receive more points. Saving trees, putting in larger trees and flowering trees gains more points. Mr. Nye stated he reviewed 2 or 3 minor things in the landscape code while he was focusing on the tree ordinance.

Mr. Pategas mentioned the new Winter Park artificial turf ordinance will need to be placed in the landscape code and the treatment of stormwater is an important aspect to the landscape code. Mr. Nye agreed that a landscape ordinance revision is needed. Mr. Hotard asked if many residents were putting in artificial turf. Mr. Pategas responded not after the new ordinance. Ms. McGillis explained that the new ordinance requires a permit to install artificial turf. It is considered impervious and there is also a setback of 10 ft from the property line. Ms. McGillis expounded on the research from Public Works, that the artificial turf materials do not remain pervious even if they start off that way.

Per Mr. Nye, when the landscape code is rewritten the language has to be the same as the language used for trees. Mr. Hotard suggested a technical group of people rewrite the code and suggested Charlie Clayton. Ms. McGillis advised the KWPBS board can rewrite the ordinance, submit and request approval from Planning & Zoning and then submit to the City Commission for approval. Professionals can be invited to the sub-committee meetings. The adherence to land development codes was discussed.

Sam Stark arrived at 11:09am

Ms. Brady suggested leaving the sustainability piece of the ordinance as is and adding to it. Mr. Pategas advised he would like the input of other landscape architects that are on the sustainability side, particularly when it comes to irrigation. Mr. Nye advised he can ask members from the Florida Friendly landscape advisory board from the UF IFAS extension for input.

Ms. Miller asked for an explanation of the point system. Mr. Pategas responded by advising that once the development type is known; commercial, office, mixed use,

multi-family or industrial and the square footage and impervious areas are known then the amount of points needed will be calculated for the project to pass. Ms. Brady suggesting adding the Director of Landscape & Grounds Mary Edwards from Rollins to the subcommittee meeting. Mr. Pategas developed a list of plants by number of points received. Mr. Nye suggested reviewing the landscape and tree ordinance revisions made by Kris Stenger in regards to LEED certification, with incentives for residential and commercial codes.

Next meeting will be scheduled for August 20, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Hotard will decide if joining. Mr. Pategas will notify Ms. Tabor if he is inviting guests. Mr. Stark may invite Ms. Edwards. Mr. Nye will provide an update on his meeting with Florida Friendly Landscaping.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.
Prepared by Bahiyyah Layton, Board Coordinator