

**Minutes Tree Advisory Board**  
Thomas Center//November 13, 2017

The meeting formally convened at 4:06 PM. Board members present were Ivor Kinkaid, E.J. Bolduc, Russell Adams and Erick Smith. Also in attendance were Linda Demetropolis (Nature Operations Manager), Lacy Holtzworth (City Arborist), Joe Wolf (GRU Forester), Meg Niederhofer, Jonathan Colburn and Jan Loeffler Bird. Erick Smith made a motion to approve and amend the agenda to include a short presentation by Jan Loeffler Bird at the opening of the meeting (motion, Erick Smith; second Ivor Kinkaid; unanimous) The minutes of October 9<sup>th</sup> were approved (motion, Erick Smith; second, Russell Adams; unanimous).

Jan Loeffler Bird was focusing on urban design. His future projects apply to the City of Gainesville and he was requesting feedback from the Board on tree species selection for future projects, specifically using fruit trees (Hybrid Chestnut was an example). Discussion centered on how to get new tree species added to the approved Gainesville Tree List. Board debated the merits and processes. Changes to the approved list require running it through to the City Commission for approval. Simple substitutions while in Site Plan Review can be accomplished by the City Reviewer. Board agreed in principle on the use of fruit trees in site plans, dependent upon the situation. The topic of contract growing was revisited; it seemed to fit well for this vision – the ability to easily procure trees of species otherwise commercially unavailable.

**Old Business**

This will be the last year the City Beautification Board will sponsor and facilitate the Urban Forestry Workshop. This will also be the last year the workshop will be facilitated by Earline Luhrman who is retiring in December. Board discussed merits and staff workloads associated with taking ownership of the annual workshop, how soon would a decision need to be made, funding sources, sponsorship, CEU's, etc. A motion was made that the Tree Advisory Board take up the mantle of planning and presenting the Urban Forestry Workshop (motion, Erick Smith; second Russell Adams; unanimous). Linda encouraged the TAB to ask the city for a budget and suggested a subset of the TAB can be on a committee to work on this outside normal TAB meeting times. Board agreed and will meet with Earline soon to get her historical input as well as asking for advice at the upcoming workshop.

**New Business**

Board briefly discussed the SB 574 and HB 521 which would preempt local government authority to regulate the trimming, removal or harvesting of trees on private property. Board felt that City legal review is needed prior to having discussions, as these bills may not move forward after legal review.

Contract growing was briefly discussed, along with the possibility of using funds from the Tree Mitigation Fund on an intern to locate potential planting sites.

Joe presented a GRU Update including the purchase of GREC, its name change to Deerhaven Renewables, impact on lowering utility rates and wood fuel supply overview. He presented information regarding the fiscal impact of streetscaping (complete underground of utilities and compliance with the perspective/vision of the Commission). Budget estimates for three projects were presented and ran \$1,700 to \$2,500 per linear foot.

Linda presented the Managers report. She updated the Board on the Weiss property. They are still waiting to hear back from Alachua County regarding the appraisal. There is still an open Wild Spaces, Public Places Director position (a current applicant turned down the position). Park management was discussed, and the division of labor and responsibilities between departments with certain parks.

**Other business**

Next meeting was set for December 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM

—Respectfully Submitted, Joe Wolf, GRU Forester

Chair Jason A. Smith (for Ivor Kinkaid) Date 12/01/17