

Minutes Tree Advisory Board  
Thomas Center//July 10, 2017

The meeting convened at 4:05 PM. Board members present were Ivor Kinkaid, E.J. Bolduc, Jason Smith, Russell Adams and Erick Smith. Also attending were Linda Demetropoulos (Nature Operations Manager), Lacy Holtzworth (City Arborist) and Joe Wolf (GRU Forester). The agenda was approved, (motion EJ; second, Russell Adams; unanimous). The minutes of June 12th, were approved (motion, EJ; second, Russell Adams; unanimous).

### **Old Business**

Ivor updated the Board on the latest news regarding the "Tree Stakeholder Committee." He felt that most of the recommended changes were benign, the simplicity of the formula was not changed and the changes don't add complexity. An update to the presentation will be presented at the GPC on 7/27.

Board discussed their specific concerns with changes which included the use of funds for O&M budget line items to be used for tree pruning. Board was adamantly against the use of public funds in this way. Board discussed the process of adaptation to any changes which would go through legal approval, codes and interdepartmental review prior to voting and adoption. Board agreed that another review following legal counsel was appropriate.

Linda presented a summary of activities regarding the Urban Forestry Workshop. She attempted to coordinate with the CBB for the fall 2017 Workshop and was not met with enthusiasm. Board felt a stand-alone workshop focused on the target audience of tree care professionals, lawn care industry, landscapers and master gardeners was appropriate. Target date might be June, 2018? How can we survey the target audience to find out what they want? Consider partnering with Alachua County Extension. Topics were discussed: legal input regarding MOT/tree care, a review of regulations, ordinances and codes and the importance of providing CEU's was agreed upon. CEU's could include ISA, pesticide, and others. Format could be ½ day with lunch. Focus on perhaps four topics. Make sure this workshop is targeting tree care professionals and is differentiated from CBB workshop. Remember to ask for a budget allocation in future City budget cycles. Board agreed to keep this topic in future agendas to further discuss and develop the workshop.

### **New Business**

Mulch at NE Park – Board reviewed email from Zach Neece. After hearing input from Lacy who talked with customer and inspected the site, the board felt comfortable the mulch is not having a detrimental effect on the mature trees in the area. Mowing techniques in the future will be altered to blow clippings away from the tree base. EJ brought up parking at Westside Park. He mentioned that cars were parking on the tree root zones where there were no wooded bollards to prevent it. Staff will look into installation of wooden bollards in this area.

GRU Setback Policy – Joe presented a summary of the findings from the GRU Collaborative Design Team discussing the upcoming presentation 7/27 for the GPC. He invited Board members to the presentation's dry run on 7/13.

### **Other business**

Joe presented an update of GRU activities. Crews have been removing dead pines along critical infrastructure feeds when found. Pines appear to have died from drought and beetles. Linda presented the Manager's report and Mitigation fund update. There was a field trip on the Weiss property that morning including City, County and Water Management District Staff.

Board discussed a specific tree mortality event thought to be herbicide damage and code regulations regarding hanging signs from trees (Swamphead Brewery). Next meeting was set for August 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Joe Wolf, GRU Forester