



TREE BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Debbie Evans, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 2:00 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. ATTENDANCE

Present: Debbie Evans, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg

Absent: Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes

Staff present: Will Gurney (Landscape Supervisor) and Michelle Diaz (Recording Secretary)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MARCH 1, 2023 TREE BOARD MINUTES

Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano requested a change be made to Section VI. OLD BUSINESS, Item A. EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY EVENT 2023 – MICHELLE GARVEY, under the second bullet point and last paragraph, second sentence. Ms. Stattmiller-Ferrano requested that it be specified that the plant and flower show took place inside the Wellington Community Center (WCC), and the plant and garden sale took place outside the WCC.

Kathy Siena requested a change be made to Section VII. NEW BUSINESS, Item B. NATIVE BOTANICAL GARDEN – JOHN SIENA, under the third paragraph, first sentence, and the second motion. Ms. Siena requested that “d” be added to the end of “preserve” in the first sentence of the last paragraph, and the motion text specify that the botanical garden would be in Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24).

Debbie Evans requested a change be made to Section IX. ADJOURN. Ms. Evans requested that the time be changed from “3:57” to “4:57”.

A motion was made by Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, and seconded by Uma Bhatti, to approve and adopt the March 1, 2023 Tree Board meeting minutes, with corrections, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Lisa

Stattmiller-Ferrano, Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes absent.

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – WILL GURNEY

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on recent tree plantings, tree removals, and status updates. Mr. Gurney anticipates that the majority of the tree plantings this year will be completed over the next couple of months.

Mr. Gurney updated the Tree Board on the status of the Citra Blue sod replacements in the medians. He stated that a section of Greenview Shores Boulevard was completed a couple of weeks ago. They plan to continue replacing sod in the medians along the rest of Greenview Shores Boulevard. Mr. Gurney stated that he observed some grass showing signs Mosaic virus (Lethal Viral Necrosis) along Forest Hill Boulevard and South Shore Boulevard, but it is not terrible.

Mr. Gurney informed the Tree Board of the upcoming tree planting in September for National Public Lands Day. Kathy Siena stated that this would be the 9th annual tree planting and it would take place on Saturday, September 23rd at 8:30 AM at the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24). Mr. Gurney stated that the seedlings to be planted this year will be Slash Pine tree (3-gallon) and that he will try to get six-hundred and fifty (650) seedlings.

Mr. Gurney discussed the upcoming landscape project taking place along Big Blue Trace. A video was shown to the Tree Board, which displayed the proposed design. He stated that the design of the landscaping is meant to discourage vehicular speeding along Big Blue Trace. Mr. Gurney stated that some of the native trees to be planted would include Live Oak, Slash Pine, Firebush, and Cocoplum. He stated that he estimates the project will take six (6) months or more once it actually begins. Debbie Evans informed the Tree Board that a public meeting will take place on June 21st, regarding this project.

Mr. Gurney informed the Tree Board that we applied for a grant on June 1st with the Florida State Forestry Division for tree plantings.

Mr. Gurney specified that the project for the invasive tree removal at the Moncada property, located in Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24), should begin soon and will take ninety (90) days to complete.

Mr. Gurney stated that he recently completed the course for Tree Risk Assessment, making him qualified to assign a hazard level to a tree.

Mr. Gurney informed the Tree Board that the Landscape Code would soon undergo review by the Planning & Zoning Department. There was discussion on possible ways to expand the current code. He stated once he has a set date on when this review will occur, he will advise the Tree Board.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. RECAP OF EARTH/ARBOR DAY – 2023

Will Gurney recapped the Earth/Arbor Day Event for 2023 with the Tree Board.

Participation in the Tree Seedling Giveaway was down this year, due to lack of schools not responding to the initial letters sent out in February. Will Gurney stated that for next year, in an effort to improve participation from schools, there will be more follow-up phone calls with schools that have not responded to the initial letters. There was also an issue with the vendor not having the some of the requested seedlings (Red Maple, Pond Cypress, and Sweet bay Magnolia) ready in time, so Mr. Gurney took what seedlings were available and ready at the time; these seedlings consisted of mostly the Pond Cypress and Wild Tamarind.

Debbie Evans noted that this year's Earth/Arbor Day event had better attendance this year, since the pandemic. Ms. Evans believes the more we can broaden the event, the better response we will get.

B. TREE CANOPY STUDY

Will Gurney and the Tree Board discussed the status of planning a Tree Canopy Study for Wellington. Mr. Gurney stated that he informed E Sciences that they would like a basic tree canopy study completed and that he is waiting on them to send a quote back. Debbie Evans requested that Mr. Gurney have a quote ready by the September meeting. He stated he would follow-up with them on obtaining that quote.

Mr. Gurney stated he would reach out to Florida State Forestry Division to see if there were any future grants that would be available and applicable to the Tree Canopy Study.

C. BOTANICAL GARDEN

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, and seconded by Kathy Siena, to add the agenda item C. BOTANICAL GARDEN under Section VI. OLD BUSINESS, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes absent.

Tree Board discussed changing the verbiage of a motion on the March 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Refer to Section IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, Item A. MARCH 1, 2023 TREE BOARD MINUTES, under the second paragraph.

A motion was made by Kathy Siena, and seconded by John Tamsberg to modify the motion text on the March 1, 2023 Tree Board meeting minutes in regards to the Botanical Garden in Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section), unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano,

Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes absent.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Debbie Evans opened the floor to nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the annual election of officers.

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, seconded by Kathy Siena, to re-elect Debbie Evans as Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes absent.

A motion was made by Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, seconded by John Tamsberg, to elect Kathy Siena as Vice Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes absent.

VIII. COMMENTS

Copies of the finalized Tree Board Annual Work Plan for 2023 were provided to the Tree Board.

Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano informed the Tree Board that she applied for a grant and was awarded the grant through the Florida Wildflower Foundation; in conjunction with The Village of Wellington and Wellington Garden Club. With the grant, they plan to install a wildflower meadow in the middle of the tree identification park, which is located within Greenbriar Park (Dog Park).

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, and seconded by Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, to adjourn at 3:12 PM. The motion was unanimously passed, with Debbie Evans, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Kathy Siena, Uma Bhatti, and John Tamsberg (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Maureen Parkes absent.