



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. ATTENDANCE

Present: Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair Chenoweth, Heather Hasandras

Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Will Gurney (Landscape Maintenance Superintendent), Michelle Garvey (Parks & Recreation), Markus Lockhart (Parks & Recreation), Michelle Diaz (Recording Secretary), Rebecca Warner (Assistant Recording Secretary)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. DECEMBER 4, 2024 TREE BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, and seconded by Kathy Siena, to approve and adopt the December 4, 2024 Tree Board meeting minutes, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair Chenoweth, and Heather Hasandras (7-0).

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – WILL GURNEY

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on recent plantings, projects, and miscellaneous items.

Mr. Gurney discussed the status of the Moncada Project. They have started planting trees—a final count of the plantings will be provided upon completion. A grant through the Inflation Reduction Act, which was going to be utilized towards the planting of canopy trees and removal of invasive vegetation, was rescinded; as a result of this, the number of actual plantings that will be completed will be

significantly less than what was originally projected. Before the grant was pulled, some funds were used towards the removal of invasive vegetation. The remainder of the fund was intended to be used towards the plantings. The Village of Wellington is actively applying for other grants in order to secure funding for the plantings. With the reduction in plantings that will be completed for the project, this site will be an ideal location for any future planting opportunities.

Mr. Gurney updated the Tree Board on the tree canopy study. At this time, staff is waiting for the grant paperwork to be finalized before moving forward with the contractor.

Mr. Gurney discussed the ongoing restoration efforts following Hurricane Milton (October 2024). There are still areas that are sparse due to the damage from the storm. New native plants are being installed in these areas to replace what was lost.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH/ARBOR DAY EVENT 2025

A motion was made by Kathy Siena, and seconded by Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, to move the agenda item A. EARTH/ARBOR DAY EVENT 2025 after A. DECEMBER 4, 2024 TREE BOARD MINUTES, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair Chenoweth, and Heather Hasandras (7-0).

Markus Lockhart discussed the plans for the 2025 Earth/Arbor Day Event with the Tree Board.

- The event will take place on Saturday, April 26th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Amphitheater.
- The theme for this year is “Our Power, Our Planet”, which is centered around renewable energy.
- The Great American Cleanup will take place before the event, starting at 9:30 AM. Volunteers are needed, anyone interested in participating should reach out to Mr. Lockhart.
- Event will feature earth-friendly vendors, activities, and a raffle drawing for a Firebush tree. Any vendors interested in participating in the event should contact Mr. Lockhart or forward their contact information to him.
- A Sweet Bay Magnolia tree will be the tree used for the annual planting with Council and Smokey the Bear at the Amphitheater.
- He requested the Tree Board to volunteer to host some youth activities at the event.

Debbie Evans requested staff to provide educational information on water conservation.

B. TREE SEEDLINGS

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on seedlings to be ordered and distributed to local school children and the 2025 Earth/Arbor Day Event.

Tree seedlings that will be given away include Slash Pine, Pond Cypress, Little Red Maple. Other seedlings that will be given away will be Dune Sunflower and Tick Seed. No orchids will be given away this year due to availability.

C. F.L.O.W.E.R. AWARD NOMINATIONS

Tree Board reviewed and discussed the submissions for the F.L.O.W.E.R. Awards.

There were two (2) nominations submitted at this time.

- 898 Sage Avenue
- 1252 Raintree Lane

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, and seconded by Uma Bhatti, to approve the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award nomination for 1252 Raintree Lane. The motion was unanimously passed, with Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair Chenoweth, and Heather Hasandras (7-0).

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, and seconded by Heather Hasandras, to reject the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award nomination for 898 Sage Avenue. The motion was unanimously passed, with Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair Chenoweth, and Heather Hasandras (7-0).

D. TREE BOARD ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025

Tree Board reviewed and discussed the 2025 Tree Board Annual Work Plan.

The following revisions were made:

- Change the years from 2024 to 2025.
- Adding a bullet point, "Select at least one location for wildflower planting" to sections "A) Education and Public Relations" and "Goals for 2025".
- Replace "biannually" with "biennially" under section "A) Education and Public Relations", third bullet point.
- Adding a bullet point, "Examine the feasibility of recognizing school gardens within Wellington, as recipients of an award" to section "A) Education and Public Relations".

A motion was made by Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, and seconded by John Tamsberg, to approve the 2025 Tree Board Annual Work Plan, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, with Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena,

**Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair
Chenoweth, and Heather Hasandras (7-0).**

VII. COMMENTS

John Tamsberg discussed HB 599: Property Owner Liability, with the Tree Board.

Kathy Siena informed the Tree Board that the Wellington Garden Club would be holding their Annual Plant Sale at the Wellington Amphitheater, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Debbie Evans discussed the Big Blue Preserve.

VIII. ADJOURN

A motion was made by John Tamsberg, and seconded by Kathy Siena, to adjourn at 3:30 PM. The motion was unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Kathy Siena, Lisa Stattmiller-Ferrano, Uma Bhatti, John Tamsberg, Kimberly Blair Chenoweth, and Heather Hasandras (7-0).