



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018 @ 2:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Stormi Bivin, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell and Joan Kaplan

Members absent: Scott Wortman

Staff present: David Flinchum, Planning and Zoning Manager; Susan Trzepacz, PW Administrative Manager; Chris Macfarlane, Assistant Recording Secretary; Michelle Diaz, PW Administrative Assistant

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. ATTENDANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kay Brown, seconded by Joan Kaplan, approving the December 6, 2017 Tree Board Minutes. The motion was unanimously passed 6-0, with Scott Wortman absent.

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES

David Flinchum updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

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

Debbie Evans submitted one (1) nomination for the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award. Susan Trzepacz stated that Brian Hopper has not had a chance to review this application but would within the next week.

Discussion followed. It was decided that additional F.L.O.W.E.R. Award nominations must be turned in before March 22, 2018, to be included in the additional Tree Board meeting scheduled for April 4, 2018. Members were asked to send or email the nominations to Brian Hopper (bhopper@wellingtonfl.gov).

Richard Cosola asked about the “old” Beautiful Wellington Grant and that he would like to see it brought back. He was concerned about the entry walls and the damage done due to the hurricane. He is thinking about going before Council to request it be brought back.

Susan Trzepacz stated that she has a copy of what took the place of that program that Richard is referring to and it is more to do with individual assistance and not HOAs or groups. She only had one copy with her but will have a copy sent to each of the Board members. She also spoke about how over time staff found that many communities weren't utilizing the program for one reason or another, but other communities were applying a second or third time. Discussion followed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY 2018

Stormi Bivin spoke about Tree Board member representation at the Earth/Arbor Day event and if they could get a schedule so that a Tree Board member was there at all times.

Schedule:

- Stormi Bivin and Debbie Evans 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Kay Brown 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Charles Sandell 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tree Board reviewed draft of the Earth/Arbor Day flyer and general consensus was that the flyer looked very nice, just needed the type of tree that was going to be planted. Chris Macfarlane stated that Brian Hopper was working on getting that information to Michelle Garvey and the flyer will then be finalized.

B. DRAFT 2018 TREE BOARD ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Tree Board reviewed and discussed the draft of the 2018 Tree Board Annual Work Plan. Changes as follows:

B) Partnerships, first bullet add: supply the number of trees planted in Wellington, in an annual “Tree Planting Report.”

C) Planning & Management add: Wellington to complete a tree inventory on Village of Wellington property.

A motion was made by Debbie Evans, seconded by Charles Sandell, to approve the amended 2018 Tree Board Work Plan to reflect the suggested changes. The motion was unanimously passed 6-0, with Scott Wortman absent.

VIII. COMMENTS

David Flinchum stated that he asked for the Tree Board to meeting on April 4th to review and approve Landscape Division Section 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5, so he will bring that before them at the April 4th meeting.

Stormi Bivin stated that there was a concerned citizen that brought to her attention the mowing schedule on the canal banks and if there was any way it could be adjusted in the spring to allow the wildflowers and natives to grow and for people to enjoy them. Staff will follow up on this request and see what can be done.

Debbie Evans asked about the inspection process on invasives on Village property. She noticed an area where an invasive species was growing and concerned it wasn't removed. Also, she asked how invasives in the OSRs (Open Space Reserves) are handled.

David Flinchum said that he knows that if Brian is aware of it (invasives) that he would have it removed immediately on public property. On private property a violation can be issued if the invasive is visible.

Debbie Evans asked what knowledge the field crews have on invasives.

David Flinchum said that some have the knowledge and some may not, but it isn't a requirement of their job. Brian can update them at the next meeting.

Debbie Evans suggested possibly doing some public education on invasives.

Susan Trzepacz stated that they deliver approximately 3,500 tree seedling in the month of April and with those seedlings they give out information about the type of seedling and how to care for it, so they could include a flyer/brochure on the subject. This way it would reach a lot of households.

Charles Sandell stated his concerns about the use of chemicals on invasives and how they could affect the environment. Suggested physical removal be an alternative to the use of chemicals that could potentially harm us in the future.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Richard Cosola, and seconded by Charles Sandell to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. The motion was unanimously passed 6-0, with Scott Wortman absent.