



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 @ 2:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. ATTENDANCE

Stormi Bivin introduced new Tree Board member, Steve Lisi, and all the Tree Board members introduced themselves.

Members present: Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Richard Cosola, Steve Lisi

Members absent: None

Staff present: Brian Hopper, Operations Supervisor, Landscape Division; Cory Cramer, Planning and Zoning; Michelle Díaz, Assistant Recording Secretary; Chris Macfarlane, Public Works; Susan Trzepacz, Public Works.

Stormi Bivin requested to add a new agenda item, Landscape Regulations, a presentation by Planning and Zoning.

A motion was made by Debbie Evans to add Landscape Regulations, a presentation by Planning and Zoning to "Old Business" and that "New Business" and "Old Business" on the agenda would be reversed so that "Old Business" will be first and then "New Business" would follow, seconded by Charles Sandell and agree unanimously by Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Richard Cosola, and Steve Lisi (6-0).

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. DRAFT APRIL 4, 2018 TREE BOARD MINUTES

Debbie Evans suggested a change be made to an item under Section VIII. COMMENTS, on the second paragraph, last sentence. She proposed that the wording "to reach out" be changed to "will reach out".

Stormi Bivin stated a spelling correction be made to an item under Section VIII. COMMENTS, on the last paragraph, third sentence. She proposed that the spelling of "Fichus" be changed to "Ficus".

A motion was made by Kay Brown, seconded by Richard Cosola, to approve and adopt the April 4, 2018 Tree Board meeting minutes, with corrections, approved unanimously by Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Kay Brown and Steve Lisi (6-0).

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – BRIAN HOPPER

Brian Hopper updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates. He stated that they have planted 35 red cedar trees at the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24), out on Flying Cow Road. Additionally, he commented that they also planted 500 native shrubs out there, which will not only enhance the habitat but it will create a better visitor experience. Stormi Bivin asked what kind of native shrubs were being planted at Section 24. Brian Hopper stated that it was a variety.

Brian Hopper also stated that this week, 15 bald cypress trees would be planted at Tiger Shark Cove Park. Stormi Bivin inquired about the location of the bald cypress trees being planted at Tiger Shark Cove Park. Brian Hopper confirmed that the trees were to be planted in the area where a substantial amount of water collects.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. LANDSCAPE REGULATIONS – CORY CRAMER

Cory Cramer updated the Tree Board members on Landscape Regulations. She stated that they are ready to take the Landscape Regulations to the Planning and Zoning Board on September 12, 2018. Once it goes to Planning and Zoning, it will go to the Village Council for a first reading. Then, it will be placed on hold until the rest of the Land Development Regulations is updated and rewritten. As soon as this is complete, everything will go back and the entire code will be adopted.

Cory Cramer explained that the intent behind the Land Development Code is to streamline the process, taking out duplications, thereby making the code easier for the general public to understand.

Cory Cramer spoke about the Tree Fund and how the purpose of the fund is to ensure the growth and sustainability of the tree canopies. She explained that if a resident wants to remove a tree and their lot meets the requirements of the Landscape Code, then they wouldn't necessarily be required to replace that tree. If they didn't meet the requirements of the code and wanted to partially fulfill that requirement, then they would have to pay a \$100 fee per tree; this only applies if the tree is shown to be too close to a structure that it would cause damage to it. If they have a large lot, they would have to replace those trees removed; if they choose not to, they would be charged a fee.

Cory Cramer stated that we have major development opportunities and in order for the development to be successful, staff is going to request that they come to the Tree Board for permission. Stormi Bivin asked how a resident or developer would approach the Tree Board for this authorization. Cory Cramer replied that it would have to be scheduled and the details for this process are still being finalized.

Stormi Bivin asked for clarification on the Palm Beach County Wellfield Protection. Cory Cramer responded that when they observed Article 7 in its entirety, not only was it related to landscaping, but it also covered site design items found in the code. They felt that everything could be combined when looking over the critical resource section, the performance standards, and tree protection. The Palm Beach County Wellfield Protection is related to ground water, therefore, it is considered a critical resource. She went on to define the Palm Beach County Wellfield Protection as an area that essentially is the groundwater system and it goes into a larger system where it can then be transferred to a treatment facility.

Stormi Bivin noted that the Tree Replacement Criteria description was deleted. Cory Cramer replied that they took the text and transformed it into a table format, placing it throughout the code rewrite; the purpose behind this was for the sake of simplicity.

Stormi Bivin inquired about the definition behind grubbing. Cory Cramer stated that the code currently describes grubbing at the removal of vegetation from land by means of digging, raking, dragging or disturbing the roots.

Charles Sandell stated that there are many trees under the care of HOAs, in neighborhoods that are more than 30 years old. He asked if it would be possible for the Village attorney to check and see if all the HOAs have renewed their documents with the state of Florida after the 30 year time period, to ensure these trees are protected under the HOA. Cory Cramer responded that Planning and Zoning works very closely with HOAs that are willing to work with the Village of Wellington. In regards to the renewal of the documents, it is a completely separate topic that she can find out more information about it.

Richard Cosola stated that they're referring to mitigation issues that the documents have to be updated; it doesn't necessarily have to be about landscaping, but just generally speaking. Cory Cramer responded that the renewal doesn't have too much to do with what is stated in the documents, as documents can be modified by a majority vote of the HOA. They still have to meet the requirements of the code or the requirements that were agreed upon when they were approved as a development.

Charles Sandell commented that he was mainly concerned over the legitimacy of the HOAs, and that if they aren't a licensed state authority, then we do not need to work with them. Corey Cramer stated she would have to get with the Village attorney, in regards to a defunct HOA.

Debbie Evans asked if this was related to the Comprehensive Plan. Cory Cramer responded that it is a separate document and more of the general overall plan.

B. RECAP OF EARTH/ARBOR DAY EVENT & ACTIVITIES

Brian Hopper reported that the Earth/Arbor Day event was a huge success, well-attended and many seedlings were given away.

Debbie Evans mentioned that at the event a couple that live in an area that has a preserve asked her whose responsibility it is to maintain the preserve. Debbie referred them to Brian and she asked him if they reached out to him. Brian stated that they may have as he has talked with several people on the topic and clarified it was the HOA's responsibility to maintain those areas.

C. HOA EDUCATION ON HAT-RACKING – BRIAN HOPPER

Brian Hopper advised Tree Board members that the HOA list is in the process of being updated and finalized. A Palm Beach County brochure on pruning, "Tree Care Tips" will be mailed out to property management companies as soon as the list is available.

Stormi Bivin requested clarification on who will be receiving the brochures. Brian Hopper confirmed that the management company of record will receive the brochures.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson)

A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Debbie Evans, nominating Stormi Bivin as Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously approved by Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Richard Cosola, and Steve Lisi (6-0).

A motion was made by Debbie Evans, seconded by Kay Brown, nominating Richard Cosola as Vice Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously approved by Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Richard Cosola, and Steve Lisi (6-0).

VIII. COMMENTS

Richard Cosola inquired again about the Beautification Grant. Brian Hopper replied that he will ask Jim Barnes to contact Richard Cosola.

Charles Sandell inquired about the height of the hedges along Forest Hill Boulevard. Brian Hopper replied that he will double check on the height and email the Tree Board members.

Debbie Evans inquired about the Great American Cleanup, per the Annual Work Plan for 2018. Brian Hopper replied it is being done through Safe Neighborhoods/Community Services.

Debbie Evans inquired about National Public Lands. Brian Hopper advised that the Village is participating again this year and the event will be held at Peaceful Waters. In collaboration with the Wellington Garden Club, some local scouts and student

groups, an estimated 500 native shrubs will be planted on the peripheral of Peaceful Waters to promote a more serene experience.

Brian Hopper advised that the first phase of the Tree Inventory is near completion and will send the results to Tree Board members as soon as it is available. He stated they were able to get through all the major roadways and through part of the parks. Debbie Evans asked if the Tree Inventory would also cover open space reserve areas. Brian Hopper replied, stating that some of the smaller reserves could be completed in the second phase, however, an area like the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24) wouldn't be included because it would be costly and time consuming.

Resident Kathy Schneider discussed Polo Club North and her concern of a proposal to build a community of over 200 homes and the removal of trees.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Richard Cosola, and seconded by Steve Lisi to adjourn at 3:10 p.m. The motion was unanimously passed 6-0, with Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Richard Cosola and Steve Lisi in favor.

Approved and Adopted: _____
Signature

Date

Michelle Diaz, Assistant Recording Secretary