



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. ATTENDANCE

Member present: Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans (arrived at 2:04 PM), Kay Brown, Charles Sandell (arrived at 2:07 PM), Steve Lisi, and Adrienne Deustch (arrived at 2:04 PM)

Members absent: None

Staff present: Brian Hopper, Operations Supervisor, and Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MARCH 6, 2019 TREE BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by Steve Lisi, seconded by Richard Cosola, to approve and adopt the March 6, 2019 Tree Board meeting minutes, unanimously passed by Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Kay Brown, and Steve Lisi (4-0); with Debbie Evans, Charles Sandell, and Adrienne Deustch absent.

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – BRIAN HOPPER

Brian Hopper updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates. Mr. Hopper stated that since the last Tree Board meeting, a total of 43 trees were planted. This included an uncommon mix of Black Ironwood, Shady Lady Black Olives, and some Chinese Fan Palms.

Mr. Hopper informed the Tree Board that the presentation about Mosaic Virus (a virus that effects grass) was a success. Mr. Hopper stated he received a lot of phone calls from people requesting clarification and was able to answer questions and refer them to an expert with Palm Beach County.

Mr. Hopper advised the Tree Board that the plantings at the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24) for National Public Lands Day, is scheduled for September 28, 2019 at around 8:30 AM.

Lastly, Mr. Hopper informed the Tree Board that Phase II of the Tree Inventory had just been completed. During this phase, 2,071 trees were inventoried. Mr. Hopper estimates that there are still around 25% to 30% of trees left to be inventoried from 10 different facilities. Mr. Hopper stated that if additional funding was available to complete the inventory, then it might be possible to include a management plan as a conclusion of the inventory, in order to set forth an action plan.

Stormi Bivin indicated that the year 2020 would be the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and she inquired if there would be a grant, in recognition of this. Brian Hopper stated that he is familiar with the various grants that are available each year, and all they can do is apply for them.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. RECAP OF EARTH/ARBOR DAY 2019 EVENT

Brian Hopper reported on the Earth/Arbor Day 2019 Event in regards to attendance, distribution of the seedlings, and the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award nominees.

The seedlings that were distributed this year were Firebush, Honeysuckle, and Viburnum, for the school seedling giveaway. There were around 350 Viburnum seedlings left over after the event, and so they were planted at the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24). Remaining Firebush had been given to the Garden Club for an event for children in Village Park. As for the Honeysuckle, there are plans to pot the remaining seedlings, allowing them to grow and eventually be planted somewhere in Wellington. Stormi Bivin advised that the children planting the seedlings with the Garden Club is one of many events being done in recognition of National Garden Week.

Stormi Bivin stated that she plans to email Michelle Garvey in regards to next year's event, to recognize the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and how the event can reflect that. Richard Cosola suggested that next year's event has a focus on climate change and how to help. Ms. Bivin advised that any additional ideas for next year's event should be emailed to Michelle Garvey.

Adrienne Deustch asked if the Village of Wellington has an official tree or official type of tree, which is symbolic. Brian Hopper responded that the Village of Wellington does not have any type of official tree. Stormi Bivin inquired if requesting an official tree in Wellington would have to go to Council. Mr. Hopper stated that Council would need to be involved in such a matter. Ms. Bivin indicated this could be up for discussion at the next Tree Board meeting.

Debbie Evans inquired about the attendance of the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award nominees at the event. Brian Hopper stated that only one nominee was absent, but their award was delivered to their home.

Debbie Evans asked about the attendance, in general, for the event. Brian Hopper replied that while no official count was taken, he believed that attendance was lighter compared to other years. Stormi Bivin deliberated on how the event can be advertised next year. Brian Hopper stated that the Tree Board can assist by spreading flyers for next year's event. Adrienne Deustch indicated that she can hand out flyers to other events she attends.

In regards to the remaining seedlings, Charles Sandell stated that while the distribution of seedlings this year was a lot cleaner, he believes people preferred to be handed the seedlings in bags versus picking up the seedlings themselves before they left the event. This year made it a bit more difficult for people because towards the end of the event, people forgot to take a seedling home or they left through a different exit. Debbie Evans proposed to change the location of the Tree Board tent to be closer to where the seedlings are being kept. Brian Hopper stated that there is an effort made every year to help make it easier for people to take seedlings home, but ultimately if people do not want a plant, they will not take it.

Debbie Evans stated that there should be discussion at the next Tree Board meeting about what was being emphasized in the schools and how schools can bring more awareness to the event. Adrienne Deustch stated that they should look into the Green Schools program, finding schools who take care of their own gardens. Ms. Evans stated that while Michelle Garvey is in charge of the event, the Tree Board must take initiative to help advertise the event for next year.

Adrienne Deustch asked about where the event is typically advertised. Brian Hopper responded that while he is not in charge of the event, advertising usually takes place on the Village of Wellington social media accounts and PSAs through the website. Ms. Deustch suggested that ads can be put up in the local newspapers and publications.

Debbie Evans suggested that staff should look into obtaining Magnolia tree seedlings in the future, because they are considered the most resilient trees against a hurricane. Ms. Evans requested a list of trees that are resilient against hurricanes for the next Tree Board meeting.

B. TREE BOARD UNIVERSITY

Brian Hopper advised the Tree Board that he did look into Tree Board University and that while it was not a mandate, it looked to be a valuable resource. Mr. Hopper explained the courses were split up into a series of videos and that those who do the course have the option to pause and return to where they left off, at their own convenience.

Debbie Evans stated that she just started the courses and one characteristic she likes about the courses is that there is a lot of emphasis on people; helping members be more effective on the Tree Board for projects, learning to engage the community, and how to advocate to the public and those who make determinations over projects.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Debbie Evans, seconded by Adrienne Deustch, to re-elect Stormi Bivin as Chairperson of the Tree Board and Richard Cosola as Vice Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously approved by Stormi Bivin, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Richard Cosola, Steve Lisi, and Adrienne Deustch (7-0).

VIII. COMMENTS

Richard Cosola asked if it was possible to incorporate trees that are edible, like fruit trees, in the Village of Wellington. Brian Hopper believes that trees that produce fruits are better suited for personal homes than neighborhood parks; many issues can occur, such as people not harvesting the trees or attracting rats.

Stormi Bivin advised the Tree Board members that Brian Hopper received the Earth Steward Recognition from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Stormi Bivin handed out email correspondence between her and Laurie Cohen, in regards to the parliamentary procedure relative to the Tree Board taking a vote, should there be a tie or someone abstaining. Laurie Cohen specified the procedure in the event of these scenarios during a Tree Board meeting.

Adrienne Deustch made a few comments on the previous minutes. She inquired if the Indigo Avenue nomination mentions the stalemate, in regards to the votes. Lastly, she pointed out that the voting tally on the Rye Terrace nomination do not accurately reflect those who were in favor and those who were opposed.

Debbie Evans discussed the Live Oak Society and detailed how the society operates.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Debbie Evans, and seconded by Adrienne Deustch to adjourn at 2:53 PM. The motion was unanimously passed 7-0, with Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Steve Lisi and Adrienne Deutsch in favor.

Approved and Adopted: _____
Signature

Date

Michelle Diaz, Assistant Recording Secretary