



## **TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020 @ 2:00 PM**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Richard Cosola, Vice Chairperson, opened the meeting at 2:00 PM.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

### **III. ATTENDANCE**

**Members present:** Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Kay Brown, Charles Sandell, Steve Lisi, and Adrienne Deutsch

**Members absent:** Stormi Bivin

**Staff present:** Brian Hopper, Operations Supervisor, David Flinchum, Planning and Zoning Manager, Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary, and Lisa Nance, Assistant Recording Secretary

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **A. JUNE 5, 2019 TREE BOARD MINUTES**

Adrienne Deutsch stated a correction be made under Section III. ATTENDANCE, under Member present. Ms. Deutsch requested that the spelling on "Deustch" be changed to "Deutsch".

Ms. Deutsch suggested a change be made to an item under Section VIII. COMMENTS, on the fourth paragraph, last sentence. Ms. Deutsch requested that the word "do" be changed to "does".

Kay Brown stated a correction be made under Section III. ATTENDANCE, under Member present. Ms. Brown requested that "Member present" be changed to "Members present".

**A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Charles Sandell, to approve and adopt the June 5, 2019 Tree Board meeting minutes, with corrections, unanimously passed by Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Charles Sandell, Kay Brown, Steve Lisi, and Adrienne Deutsch (6-0); with Stormi Bivin 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 there were several tree projects:

- Removed eight (8) non-native Ficus benjamina trees along Forest Hill Boulevard (near Essex Park), and replanted eight (8) Shady Lady Black Olive trees and seven (7) Green Buttonwood trees in its place.
- Removed one (1) Bischofia tree, which is a Category I invasive exotic, in Primrose Park, and replanted one (1) Shady Lady Black Olive tree in its place.
- Removed one (1) Laurel Oak tree in Farmington Park, due to extensive decay, and planted one (1) Shady Lade Black Olive tree.
- Planted five (5) Shady Lady Black Olive trees at the Old Boys & Girls Club.
- Removed nine (9) Mahogany trees from parking lot islands at Village Park, due to the tree roots damaging the sidewalk, and replanted nine (9) Silver Buttonwood trees.

Mr. Hopper stated they are attempting to plant different types of trees besides Live Oak trees because Wellington currently has many and does not want to create a monoculture.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. LWCF VILLAGE PARK FIELDS 6-7**

Wellington is applying for grant funding for the renovation and rebuilding of multi-purpose fields #6 and #7 in Village Park.

Tree Board discussed the 2020 Land and Water Conservation Grant Program (LWCF) grant application in the amount of \$400,000 for the improvements to Village Park.

Brian Hopper advised the Tree Board that if this renovation was to involve the planting of trees, then this would be brought before the members for review.

### **B. OFFICIAL TREE FOR WELLINGTON**

Tree Board members discussed the possibility of selecting an official tree for Wellington, to present to Council.

Debbie Evans discussed how historically the trees in the Wellington area were Pine trees (upland) and Cypress trees (lowland).

At this time, no recommendations were made.

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

One (1) F.L.O.W.E.R. Award nomination was received by Debbie Evans for 14909 Horseshoe Trace. Ms. Evans stated that she nominated this residence because it appears to have had the most trees on their property in the area for a while.

It was agreed by all Tree Board members that voting on nominations would take place at the next scheduled meeting. Members were advised to send their nominations to staff before the next meeting.

#### **D. EARTH/ARBOR DAY 2020 EVENT**

Brian Hopper advised that the Earth/Arbor Day Event is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Mr. Hopper stated that this year, two (2) Pond Cypress trees will be planted for the event, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Debbie Evans discussed ideas on how this year's event should commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Arbor Day. Ms. Evans suggested that members mention to people they speak to that trees are infrastructure, much like the roads and sewers. Richard Cosola suggested Ms. Evans create a small presentation to present at the Earth/Arbor Day Event on this topic.

Richard Cosola stated that they should encourage people to plant a tree at their own residence.

Brian Hopper mentioned that he is working with the Wellington Garden Club on organizing additional tree planting projects for the Wellington Environmental Preserve, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Debbie Evans discussed how Michelle Garvey has contacted all the major environmental organizations, and if the Tree Board wanted to do more than this. Ms. Evans suggested recognizing the efforts of the people who are behind some of the plantings that take place.

Ms. Evans inquired on what the local schools were doing to celebrate the anniversary. She advised the Tree Board to contact the schools to find out, and additionally the staff due to the limitations of the Sunshine Act.

Ms. Evans discussed an event she attended at Pan's Garden. She stated that they were giving out handouts to the children and was wondering if it was possible for staff to purchase these hand-outs to give away at the Earth/Arbor Day Event. Adrienne Deutsch stated that these handouts come from the Native Plants Society and they are available for download from the internet, with their permission.

Richard Cosola stated that there should be a handout made about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the importance of planting a tree. Mr. Cosola stated he would send a handout to Brian Hopper.

Debbie Evans advised staff to contact Michelle Garvey about the Earth/Arbor Day Event flyer and have the anniversary mentioned somewhere on the flyer.

#### **E. TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY**

Brian Hopper advised that the Tree Seedling Giveaway is once again scheduled for 2020. Mr. Hopper stated that he ordered Simpson's Stopper and Southern Red Cedar seedlings for the giveaway program, as well as the Earth/Arbor Day Event. Mr.

Hopper stated that he took Debbie Evans' request to provide species that were smaller.

#### **F. TREE CARE TIPS, PROPER PRUNING FLYER – UTILITY BILL INSERTS**

Brian Hopper confirmed that the same "Tree Care Tips" brochure is scheduled to be sent out this Spring with the Utility bill inserts, as we do each year.

#### **VII. COMMENTS**

Adrienne Deutsch informed the Tree Board that Palm Beach County has a program that offers residents two (2) free native trees or shrubs in gallon containers.

Steve Lisi discussed legislation that was passed recently in regards to property rights and the removal of trees. Mr. Lisi stated this may become an issue for the Village of Wellington in the future. Brian Hopper clarified that the bill only pertains to trees deemed hazardous by a certified arborist.

Charles Sandell discussed the ongoing initiative to plant one trillion trees by Trillion Trees. Mr. Sandell also spoke about homeowners with overhanging trees and the rights of the neighbors to the property.

Adrienne Deutsch discussed Florida Power and Light's (FPL) plan to move power lines underground and the removal of invasive plants located near the current power lines, specifically along Horseshoe Trace. Ms. Deutsch inquired that once this happens, would it become a haven for unfettered invasive plants. Mr. Hopper stated that requirements to keep a property free of invasive plants differs between private property and public property; it would be monumentally expensive to clear out these invasives. Ms. Deutsch said she reached out to FPL and they stated they are only budgeted a limited amount for tree removals.

Debbie Evans advised the Tree Board that Everglades Day at the Loxahatchee Reserve would take place on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

#### **VIII. ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Richard Cosola, and seconded by Charles Sandell to adjourn at 3:02 PM. The motion was unanimously passed 5-0, with Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Charles Sandell, Steve Lisi and Adrienne Deutsch in favor 5-0; with Stormi Bivin and Kay Brown absent.**

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Approved and Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

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Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary