



**TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 @ 2:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Charles Sandell, to allow Adrienne Deutsch to participate in the Tree Board Meeting via phone, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, and Kathy Siena (4-0); with Richard Cosola and Adrienne Deutsch absent.**

**III. ATTENDANCE**

**Members present:** Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena.

**Members absent:** Richard Cosola

**Staff present:** Will Gurney (Operations Supervisor), Michelle Garvey (Assistant Parks and Recreation Director), and Michelle Diaz (Recording Secretary)

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 TREE BOARD MINUTES**

Adrienne Deutsch stated a correction be made under Section VI. STAFF UPDATES, under the third paragraph, third sentence. Ms. Deutsch requested that the spelling on "Sable" be changed to "Sabal".

Stormi Bivin stated a correction be made under Section VI. STAFF UPDATES, under the sixth paragraph. Ms. Bivin requested that the spelling of "Sienna" be changed to "Siena".

Debbie Evans suggested a change be made to an item under Section VI. STAFF UPDATES, under the fifth paragraph, second sentence. Ms. Evans requested that the wording of "how many trees apart of the canopy were native and exotic" be changed. Adrienne Deutsch suggested it be changed to "how many trees apart of the existing tree canopy were native and exotic".

Debbie Evans stated a correction be made under Section VII. NEW BUSINESS, item A. COMMEMORATIVE TREE PROGRAM UPDATE, under the third paragraph, third

sentence. Ms. Evans requested that the wording of “be labelled” be changed to “can be labelled”.

**A motion was made by Adrienne Deutsch, seconded by Stormi Bivin, to approve and adopt the September 2, 2020 Tree Board meeting minutes, with corrections, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

## **V. STAFF UPDATES**

### **A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – WILL GURNEY**

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates.

Mr. Gurney discussed the status of the replacement of grass infected with the Mosaic virus (Lethal Viral Necrosis). Replacements have resumed due to a flare up of the virus observed during the Fall/Winter, specifically in the medians along Forest Hill Boulevard, South Shore Boulevard, and Wellington Trace. In addition to replacing the sod with CitraBlue, more landscape material was also installed and the landscape beds were increased to reduce turf. Staff will continue to observe how the new variety of sod performs over the next couple of months; if it performs well, replacements will resume in other areas that the virus is present. Adrienne Deutsch asked if we were in contact with the University of Florida, regarding this issue. Mr. Gurney stated he was in contact with them and they were the ones who suggested using CitraBlue. Stormi Bivin asked who homeowners could seek out if they wanted to get CitraBlue for their own property. Mr. Gurney stated that homeowners could potentially purchase the sod from Odum's Sod.

Mr. Gurney informed the Tree Board of that one-hundred (100) Pond Cypress trees were planted by Cub Scouts in Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24). There are two-hundred (200) Pond Cypress scheduled to be planted at Rotary Peace Park and various locations throughout Wellington (wetlands/OSRs).

Mr. Gurney stated he is implementing a hardwood tree trimming program, to ensure hardwood trees are consistently being properly maintained every third year. Charles Sandell asked what height the trees are trimmed to, specifically the ones that loom over highways. Mr. Gurney stated that those specific trees are trimmed to fifteen (15) feet.

Kathy Siena inquired about the status of obtaining seedlings for the planting event on National Public Lands Day. Mr. Gurney stated that he has reached out to various vendors and will be able to procure the seedlings in time for the event. Ms. Siena requested that Mr. Gurney email the contact information of one of the vendors. Adrienne Deutsch stated she will send Mr. Gurney and Ms. Siena the contact information for some native nurseries she knows of.

The Tree Board reviewed the list of tree removals that took place during 2020.

**A motion was made by Charles Sandell, seconded by Kathy Siena, to discuss item B. EARTH/ARBOR DAY 2021 EVENT before the other items, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. TREE BOARD REFERENCE HANDBOOK**

Tree Board reviewed and discussed the materials curated in the new reference handbook.

The handbook consists of the following:

- American Forest Canopy Study from 2005 (includes a map, summary, urban boundary analysis report, and land cover analysis report).
- Ordinance 2020-07: Exhibit D – Conservation Element.
- Wellington's Code of Ordinances Article VI – Boards & Committees, Division 2 – Tree Board.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

The F.L.O.W.E.R. Award applications were reviewed, discussed and voted on by the Tree Board members. There was one (1) nomination submitted.

**A motion was made by Kathy Siena, seconded by Stormi Bivin, to approve the 1433 Northampton Terrace nomination, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, and Kathy Siena (4-0); with Richard Cosola absent and Adrienne Deutsch recused.**

### **B. EARTH/ARBOR DAY 2021 EVENT**

Michelle Garvey updated the Tree Board on the Earth/Arbor Day 2021 event. Ms. Garvey stated that the event is scheduled for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Wellington's Town Center Promenade; the event will follow the Great American Clean Up, which is scheduled for 10:00 AM at the Wellington Community Center. Will Gurney will select the tree that will be planted by Council and what tree will be used for the raffle contest at the event. Council will be reading the Arbor Day proclamations behind the Wellington Community Center.

Ms. Garvey stated that this will be one of first in-person events held by the Village of Wellington since the pandemic. All current CDC guidelines will be adhered to at the event—masks will be mandatory, free masks will be handed out, hand sanitizing stations will be set up for use, and signage will be put up to encourage social distancing.

Ms. Garvey discussed the participation of outside organizations in the event. Ms. Garvey is unsure if Florida Forestry are doing in-person events at this time, so Smokey the Bear has not been confirmed to attend. The Wellington Art Society stated they would hold a vote at their next meeting to determine if they will participate this year. Ms. Garvey stated that there are currently six (6) confirmed vendors: Public Works, Tree Board, Wellington Garden Club, Nothing Fancy Organics, Conscious Eats, and a terracotta pot vendor. Ms. Garvey stated she reached out to Palm Beach Soil and Water, per Debbie Evans' request, but has not heard back from them. Ms. Garvey asked the Tree Board that if they have any vendors they would like her to reach out to, to email her the information.

### **C. TREE SEEDLINGS**

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on the status of the tree seedlings for the Earth/Arbor Day event and school deliveries. A total of three-thousand (3,000) seedlings are scheduled to be delivered the week before the Earth/Arbor Day event, consisting of South Florida Slash Pine and Red Maple seedlings. Five-hundred (500) seedlings will be given away at the event, and the remaining will be used for the school deliveries. Information on how to care for the plant will be included with the seedlings.

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

Will Gurney 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.

### **E. 2021 TREE BOARD ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

Tree Board members reviewed and discussed the Tree Board Annual Work Plan for 2021.

Debbie Evans suggested "Goals for 2020" be changed to "Goals for 2021".

Kathy Siena recommended a change in wording to emphasize the Wellington Garden Club's participation in National Public Lands Day. Debbie Evans suggested an additional bullet point be added under section Initiatives, item Partnerships, stating "Work with Wellington Garden Club to participate in National Public Lands Day (September)".

**A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Adrienne Deutsch, to approve the corrections Tree Board Annual Work Plan 2021, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

Debbie Evans proposed adding a new goal, stating "Complete Tree Management Plan with consultant".

**A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Charles Sandell, to approve the addition to the Tree Board Annual Work Plan 2021, unanimously passed by**

**Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

Debbie Evans suggested adding an additional goal, stating "Initiate aerial Urban Land Cover Survey".

**A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Kathy Siena, to approve the addition to the Tree Board Annual Work Plan 2021, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

**A motion was made by Charles Sandell, seconded by Adrienne Deutsch, to approve the the Tree Board Annual Work Plan 2021, with changes, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

#### **VIII. COMMENTS**

Debbie Evans requested that Will Gurney do a presentation on the results of the Tree Inventory, showcasing the GIS component, at the next meeting.

Kathy Siena mentioned that on the Village of Wellington website, the Tree Board page needed to be updated to reflect current members and positions. Michelle Diaz stated any changes that need to be made to the Tree Board page can be relayed to the Clerk's Office.

Debbie Evans inquired about a Recreational and Trails Program grant for Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24), that was discussed at a Council meeting. Will Gurney stated he would find out more information and get back to Ms. Evans.

Adrienne Deutsch informed the Tree Board that from March 17<sup>th</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Winding Waters Natural Area Festival.

Debbie Evans informed the Tree Board that on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a Council meeting discussing the preserve areas near the Wellington Green Mall.

Debbie Evans informed the Tree Board about the Florida Urban Forestry Council hosting a Florida Urban Institute conference March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IX. ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, and seconded by Charles Sandell, to adjourn at 3:52 PM. The motion was unanimously passed, with Debbie Evans, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Richard Cosola absent.**

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

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Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary

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