



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 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.

III. ATTENDANCE

Members present: Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, Kathy Siena and Maureen Parks.

Staff present: Will Gurney (Operations Supervisor) and Chris Macfarlane (Assistant Recording Secretary)

Debbie Evans advised Tree Board members of the new Tree Board member, Maureen Parkes, and asked Ms. Parkes to introduce herself. Ms. Parkes advised that by profession she is a nurse practitioner, works with Baptist Health and with other companies. Ms. Parke advised she is happy to be on the Tree Board and ready to serve and open to learning.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MARCH 3, 2021 TREE BOARD MINUTES

Stormi Bivin stated a clarification/correction be made after Section II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, where the motion was made to allow Adrienne Deutsch participate in the Tree Board Meeting via phone, clarification should be made to change "Adrienne Deutsch absent" to say "Adrienne Deutsch physically absent," so that "physically" is included.

Stormi Bivin stated a correction be made under Section IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, paragraph three, fourth sentence, "Adrienne Deutsch suggested it be changed to 'how many trees apart **of** the existing tree canopy were native and exotic'" to "Adrienne Deutsch suggested it be changed to 'how many trees apart **from** the existing tree canopy were native and exotic.'"

Stormi Bivin suggested a correction be made under Section VII – NEW BUSINESS, Item B. EARTH/ARBOR DAY 2021 EVENT, the third paragraph, third sentence: "Smokey the Bear" should be changed to "Smokey Bear."

A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Adrienne Deutsch, to approve and adopt the March 3, 2021 Tree Board meeting minutes, with the above corrections, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, Kathy Siena and Maureen Parkes (7-0).

Debbie Evans requested that clarification be made under Section VII. NEW BUSINESS, Item A. F.L.O.W.E.R. AWARD NOMINATIONS, first paragraph, first sentence, be changed from "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" to "The one (1) F.L.O.W.E.R. Award application received was reviewed, discussed and voted on by the Tree Board members. There was only one (1) nomination submitted."

A motion was made by Debbie Evans, seconded by Richard Cosola, to approve and adopt the March 3, 2021 Tree Board meeting minutes, with the above corrections, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, Kathy Siena and Maureen Parkes (7-0).

V. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – WILL GURNEY

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates. He advised that there have not been a lot of plantings as this will begin about now when the rainy season begins as many of our natural areas are not irrigated.

Mr. Gurney advised that the Cub Scouts do some tree planting in Section 24 where they planted one hundred (100) Palm Cypress.

Mr. Gurney reviewed the 2021 recent plantings and tree removals spreadsheets. Mr. Gurney advised that there have not been many tree removals.

Mr. Gurney advised that we are losing a few pine trees on the median at Binks Forest Drive, as the pine trees do not like well water as there is a lot of iron in the water and we will probably lose a few more. Mr. Gurney advised that the pine trees will be replaced with trees like the Cypress tree and the pine trees will be planted in areas better suited for pine trees.

Mr. Gurney advised that \$10,000 is budgeted this year for tree plantings and purchasing trees. Mr. Gurney stated that he will have more information at the next Tree Board meeting when more trees have been planted.

Debbie Evans enquired about the Bismarck Palm disease. Mr. Gurney explained that it is a bacterial disease which clogs up the system and then the tree cannot function. It moves around by an insect (leafhopper) that feeds off the palm tree and from tree to

tree. The disease also moves around to different species of palm trees. Mr. Gurney advised he noticed that there are other trees which have the disease, and not just the Bismarck, such as the Canary Palm, the Silvestri, and some of the larger date palms, as well as the sabal palms. Once the tree has been infected, there is not much that can be done. A fairly new pre-treatment is to treat by systemic insecticides.

There was discussion about native planting in the medians as they are mostly shell rock. Mr. Gurney discussed how new construction projects should have some native soil brought in as there is not much you can plant in shell rock that is going to flourish.

Debbie Evans questioned the heading on the "New Planting" spreadsheet, "Repair trench line from new streetlight installed by FPL in front of Castallina." Will Gurney advised that it should say "2021 recent plantings" and it was just mislabeled.

Ms. Evans advised that she read an article in the "Town-Crier" that there will be some changes to the Amphitheater and Scott's Place. Mr. Gurney informed Tree Board members that they will be making Scott's Place a bit larger and the Amphitheater a lot larger, moving some of the parking to create more green space and creating green space to coincide with events at the Amphitheater. The irrigation and landscaping will also be redesigned. They plan to be breaking ground in January 2022. Ms. Evans asked if the Tree Board members would be able to see the plans with the landscaping at the next Tree Board meeting in September and Mr. Gurney said he will bring the plans to the next Tree Board meeting and update the Tree Board members.

Maureen Parkes inquired as to what are some of the signs of a diseased palm. Mr. Gurney explained that the palms become droopy and will have a bronze color. The fronds will begin to drop down and the palm will slowly decline. The best thing to do is to pre-treat the palm before you see any of the signs.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. RECAP OF EARTH/ARBOR DAY 2021 EVENT

Will Gurney advised that approximately 100 tree seedlings were given out at the Arbor Day event. The event went well, but it was not a great turnout. Tree Board members discussed that the light turnout may have been due to many things such as Covid, the new location (the Promenade), the fact that it was in the middle of the day and the fact that there was no band. It was also noted that there were not many vendors. Kathy Siena said that there were a lot of scouts and their parents and Debbie Evans noted that it was very nice that the Garden Club worked with the kids.

Mr. Gurney reviewed the "Tree Seedlings Summary" and advised that approximately 2,500 tree seedlings were distributed to the schools this year.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. TREE INVENTORY PRESENTATION – WILL GURNEY

Will Gurney reviewed the Phase 3 Tree Inventory Report. Mr. Gurney advised that there is a lot of good information which goes into our GIS. Mr. Gurney advised that a link to the GIS mapping was sent to all Tree Board members. The map will allow you to bring up the tree inventory, shows you all of Wellington where all the trees are located, and you can click on individual trees and it will bring up all the information on the species. The map of Wellington shows a little over 5,000 trees, however, it is not 100% complete. Mr. Gurney advised that it is in the process of being edited and it should be ready in a couple of months. Debbie Evans asked if there will be a way to go through the data to come up with totals of each type of trees to ensure that we are getting some diversification into the tree canopy. Mr. Gurney replied that it is not built for specific species as yet. Adrienne Deutsch asked if there were trees that Mr. Gurney would like to have to increase diversity. Mr. Gurney replied that it would be anything native and it depends on location. Richard Cosola asked if Mr. Gurney ever considered planting mango trees, as it never loses its leaves and it is edible. Mr. Gurney advised that he prefers not to plant fruit trees as there is usually a lot of cleaning up and there is more maintenance. Mr. Gurney advised that he tries to stay with natives.

B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Debbie Evans opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair as even though terms of appointment are for two years, officers are elected every year.

Richard Cosola asked if Stormi Bivin will be moving and Ms. Bivin replied that she will be moving out of Wellington so she will no longer be able to serve on the Tree Board and was going to bring this up in the "Comments" section.

A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Stormi Bivin, to re-elect Debbie Evans as Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, Kathy Siena and Maureen Parkes (7-0).

A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Charles Sandell, to re-elect Richard Cosola as Vice Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, Kathy Siena and Maureen Parkes (7-0).

VIII. COMMENTS

Kathy Siena stated that there are currently two (2) roundabouts in Wellington: Stribling Way and Ousley Farms Road. The roundabout at Stribling Way has trees and plantings, however, the roundabout at Ousley Farms Road does not have any plants. Ms. Siena asked if there will be any planting in the future. Mr. Gurney advised that there is no irrigation at the Ousley Farms roundabout and this would need to be addressed. Mr. Gurney said he will inquire. Kathy Siena, on behalf of the Tree Board, made a recommendation that it be considered installing irrigation and planting low native trees at the Ousley Farms Road roundabout.

Richard Cosola asked Will Gurney to look into some low-maintenance planting by The 12th Fairway and the school where the chain link fence is located as there is no buffer in that area. Mr. Cosola also asked if there could be some planting placed on the easement on Forest Hill Boulevard by the library and the north course so that people would not be able to cut through the area. Mr. Gurney replied that he would look into this.

Debbie Evans asked if there is anything in the ordinance about plantings and lighting, as other cities have policies that lighting should be shining down and not upwards. Ms. Evans pointed out that the lighting at the roundabout at Stribling Way shines up into the sky and not downward. Will Gurney advised that there is nothing in the landscaping ordinance now about lighting. Debbie Evans suggested perhaps that is something that can be discussed with the Planning and Zoning department.

Stormi Bivin's advised that this will be her last meeting as a Tree Board member as she will be resigning. Ms. Bivin advised that she will be moving and will no longer be a Wellington resident and therefore will no longer be eligible to serve on the Tree Board. It was mentioned that Ms. Bivin has been a Wellington resident for 21 years and a Tree Board member for 15 years. Debbie Evans pointed out that Ms. Bivin came up with the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award (Fabulous Landscapes of Wellington Earning Recognition) and so she leaves a legacy. Ms. Bivin clarified that it was both she and Lisa Ferrano who brought the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award to the Tree Board. All the Tree Board members wished Ms. Bivin the best.

Debbie Evans asked if there were any other comments. Ms. Maureen Parkes advised she is looking forward to working with everyone on the Tree Board. Ms. Parkes mentioned that she has lived in Wellington since 2011 and has seen Wellington grow. Ms. Parkes commented that the aesthetics in Wellington are always on point.

Debbie Evans advised that a link was sent, via Chris Macfarlane, to all Tree Board members regarding the Comprehensive Plan, which is now called Conservation Sustainability and Resiliency Element which was presented at the recent Planning and Zoning meeting. Ms. Evans advised all Tree Board members to take a look at it, as there is a lot of reference to natives and tree canopies.

Ms. Evans asked staff to send the Tree Board handbook, which was put together recently and will include the old Comprehensive Plan, to Maureen Parkes.

Adrienne Deutsch advised that she did look at it and while it talks about preserving the native trees, it did not mention anything about the native shrubs or things that are necessary for preserving a wildlife habitat. Ms. Evans suggested an email be sent to Cory Cramer with Planning and Zoning and all Village Council members.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Adrienne Deutsch, and seconded by Richard Cosola, to adjourn at 3:30 PM. The motion was unanimously passed, with Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Stormi Bivin, Charles Sandell, Adrienne Deutsch, Kathy Siena and Maureen Parkes (7-0).

Approved and Adopted: _____
Signature Date

Chris Macfarlane, Assistant Recording Secretary

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