

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2019

Mission Statement: Augment community awareness of our Urban Forest, provide education regarding the benefits of trees and a commitment to protect, preserve and proliferate our community's Urban Forest. Beautification of our Windermere Parks and Recreation Areas.

Tree Board Members: Theresa Schretzmann-Myers (Chairman), Frank Krens (Vice Chair and Acting Recording Sec.), Susan Norris-Carter, Jacqueline Rapport, (Treasurer and Secretary positions are vacant)

Town Liaison: Chris Sapp

CALL TO ORDER: There was a quorum and Vice Chair Frank Krens called the regular meeting of the WTB to order at 6:55pm at Windermere Town Hall. The meeting was attended by all four Tree Board members:

- Theresa Schretzmann-Myers, Chairman
- Frank Krens, Vice Chair and acting Secretary
- Jackie Rapport
- Susan Carter

Town Council member and Tree Board liaison, Chris Sapp, also attended.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

February minutes were reviewed during the meeting and approved with one correction, to state that installation of the memorial bench at the 1887 Schoolhouse will be handled by Vickie Hearst of the Garden Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Potted Trees Left Over from Arbor Day Event

- **Inventory and Advertising to Town Residents** - Theresa Schretzmann-Myers provided an inventory of eleven tree types remaining for review by the Board during the meeting. Theresa said she would provide the list and invitation, pasted below, to Town Administration for posting on the Town Website and other media.

Tree Inventory and Invitation to Town Residents

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Are you a Town of Windermere resident? Did you lose trees in recent storms? Did you miss picking up a Windermere Treebute Florida Arbor Day tree? Windermere Tree Board has limited supplies of small, medium and large Florida Native trees for planting. Please contact or text Tree Board at 407-579-4621 to schedule a time for pick-up.

| Tree Type | Gallon Size | Mature Tree Height | Wholesale Value |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Loblolly Bay | 15 gal | 70 feet | 45.00 |
| Pop Ash | 7 gal | 30-50 feet | 18.00 |
| Water Hickory | 1 gal | 60-70 feet | 5.00 |
| Black Mulberry | 3 gal | 15-20 feet | 8.00 |
| Blackgum | 10 gal | 80 feet | 45.00 |
| Shumard Oak | 3 gal | 80 feet | 8.00 |
| Persimmon "Fuyu" | 10 gal | 18-20 feet | 55.00 |
| Loquat | 15 gal | 20-35 feet | 45.00 |
| Sabal Palm | 7 gal | 65 feet | 35.00 |
| Flatwood or Chickasaw Plum | 10 gal. | 15-20 Feet | 45.00 |
| Marlberry | 10 gal | 15-20 Feet | 45.00 |

- As stated in February MINUTES, trees that remain unclaimed after two weeks will be planted on town property and any remaining trees will be offered to Marina Bay.

2. 1887 Schoolhouse

- **Memorial Bench** - A memorial bench and installation ceremony will be handled by Vickie Hearst of the Garden Club. No further action by the WTB on this is required.
- **Re-bid of Historic Citrus Trees** - Theresa Schretzmann-Myers stated that she spoke with the provider of the existing historic trees, Jason of the Arnold family, who offered to provide a simple quote to the scope provided in the recent RFP. He also offered to meet next week on the effort.
- **RFP Complexity** – It was noted that a simple quote is unlikely to address certain compliance elements of the RFP. There was discussion regarding the ongoing difficulty of getting vendors/contractors to bid on small value jobs. Susan Carter offered to research how other municipalities streamline RFPs to deal with this.

3. Tree Removal Permit for Masson Property at 11458 Lake Butler Blvd.

- **Inadequacy of the Tree Ordinance and Compliance Process** – Board members lamented the extensive loss of heritage trees on the subject property and the inadequacy of the Tree Ordinance and compliance process to prevent such losses.
- **Policy Changes** - Councilman Chris Sapp stated that, in the future, all tree removal permits will be provided to him and the Tree Board. Other policy changes will be

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made – including a requirement to provide photos of dead tree conditions as documentation to support and substantiate permit review and approval.

4. Efforts to Save Large Oak Tree by Southeast Corner of Town Hall

- **Level 2 Risk Assessment Review** - Theresa Schretzmann-Myers reviewed the Level 2 risk assessment provided by a certified arborist and stressed the potential (at least temporarily) to reduce the risk to “low” by pruning dead wood and replacing the non-permeable pavers with permeable ones.
- **Discussion** – Chris Sapp stated that the tree will probably be removed because of the perceived risk and unlikelihood of the tree’s long-term survival. He further recommended that the Board consider replacement of this tree with several trees of 7- or 8-inch diameter at various locations on town square and elsewhere. There was discussion and general agreement of replacing the tree after removal with a smaller, decorative type tree such as a fringe or redbud tree.

5. Tree Ordinance Subcommittee Re-start

- **Subcommittee Meetings** - The Subcommittee agreed to meet on April 16, with a focus on:
 - updating mitigation fees
 - providing more robust definition of building “footprint”
 - providing for an “arms-length” (but cost-effective and affordable) permit review/approval
- **Mitigation Value Determination** - Theresa Schretzmann-Myers provided a copy of a document from the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, entitled “Determining the Mitigation Value of Roadside Vegetation”. This document provides methodology and examples for appraising trees and assigning mitigation values. Reception by the Board was generally positive. Frank Krens expressed concern that the implementation may be taxing on existing staff and that the cost of a hired/contracted arborist may be prohibitive.
- **Clarification of “Invasive” Species** – Susan Carter expressed a need to differentiate between “Class 1” and “Class 2” invasive species in the Ordinance. She recommended that the Ordinance specifically state that no permit was required for Class 1 and that a permit is required for Class 2.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Consideration of combining the Tree Board and Parks and Recreation Committee.**

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Chris Sapp asked the opinion of Board members regarding the suggested merging of the two committees. There was one Board member a proponent, one “open to it”, and two strongly opposed.

- **Meeting Times** – After discussion, the Board agreed to set future meeting times at 6:30pm.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50pm.

- **Next Meeting Thursday - April 18, 2019 at 6:30pm**