

Windermere Tree Board

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

May 16, 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: Susan Norris-Carter (Chairman), Frank Krens (Secretary), Jacqueline Rapport

Town Manager: Robert Smith

Town Liaison: Chris Sapp

CALL TO ORDER: WTB Chair, Susan Carter, called the regular meeting of the WTB to order at 6:00pm at Windermere Town Hall. It was attended by all three Tree Board members:

- Susan Carter, Chair
- Frank Krens, Secretary
- Jackie Rapport

Other Attendees:

- Town Manager, Robert Smith, and Town Council liaison, Chris Sapp, were present
- Town residents and WTB applicants, Leslie Brabec and Debra Neill were present.
- Town resident and Parks and Recreation (P&R) Chairman, Nora Brophy, was present for the open forum segment.
- Town resident, Brandi Haines was present.

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT: Nora Brophy reported that the Town of Windermere has been approved for a *Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)* grant of \$50,000 for improvements to Fernwood Park. Park conceptual design contractor, IDG, estimated a cost of \$180,000 for the initial phase of the project and the town has allocated \$150,000. P&R requests that WTB provide funding for clearing of invasive plants and that WTB provide a plan for new tree planting at Fernwood Park.

Town Manager, Robert Smith stated that Town administration would request bids for clearing of invasive plants, that existing WTB mitigation funds were about \$30,000, and that another \$30,000 in mitigation fees was expected during the year.

Jackie Rapport suggested combining this with other invasive clearing efforts for cost savings.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tree Ordinance Revision

Susan Carter stated that the Tree Ordinance Subcommittee has not met and recommended that contractors experienced in this type of work be considered for this effort. Robert Smith agreed, but that the first step is to get cost estimates. (see item 2 under New Business),

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2. Gazette Articles

After discussion, it was agreed that WTB would submit an article for each Gazette issue.

Action: WTB applicant, Leslie Brabec offered to draft an article on the benefits of trees, for edit by Susan Carter, and in time to meet the May 24 submittal deadline.

3. 1887 Schoolhouse Citrus Tree Replacement and Maintenance

Susan Carter said that Jason Arnold, provider of the existing citrus trees, would assess current conditions in the next week and would provide an estimate for replacement of dead trees and maintenance of the grove.

WTB recommends that tree removal and trimming be completed by the June WTB meeting.

Frank Krens stated that his contacts, citrus enterprise owners Bob Matheison and Everette Fischer, were not interested in bidding tree replacement and maintenance of the grove.

4. Marina Bay Planting Project

Susan Carter stated that remaining Arbor Day trees are marked by type and mature height for consideration by Marina Bay.

Action: Robert Smith said we need to give Marina Bay a deadline - for them to select trees and to have underground utilities marked by the next WTB meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes Approval

Jackie Rapport made a motion to approve with revision to add the intention of Frank Krens to attend the "Trees & Storms: Lessons Learned" session at the UF-IFAS extension in Orlando. Frank Krens seconded and the minutes were approved as amended 3/0.

2. Discussion hiring a company to give the Board either a five- or ten-year master forestry plan for our public trees that could also include working on Town Tree Ordinance

Discussion: There was general discussion and consensus on the following points:

- a tree management plan is needed
- generation of such a plan is beyond the scope of the WTB
- grant funding is probably available for generation of a plan and worth pursuing
- generation of a revised Tree Ordinance should be included

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- companies like Davey Resource Group have prepared excellent plans for other towns and cities

There was discussion without consensus on the following points:

- value and readability (e.g. with what software) of a tree survey that was done years ago and stored in Scott Brown's office
- scope, value, cost, and approach to generated, maintain, and use a new tree survey.

Action: 1. Obtain cost estimates for generation of a new Tree Ordinance and an Urban Forest Management Plan, and 2. Use the cost estimates to support an application for grant.

3. Volunteer Application – Leslie Brabec

Frank Krens made a motion to add consideration of Debra Neill for WTB membership to the agenda. Jackie Rapport seconded and it was approved 3/0.

Susan Carter made a motion to recommend applications from both Leslie Brabec and Debra Neill for approval by the Town Council. Jackie Rapport seconded and it was approved 3/0.

4. Overview of ISA-sponsored “Trees & Storms” class

Frank Krens summarized the class agenda and key points made by presenter Dr. Ed Gilman and others. Frank provided a handout with links to Dr. Gilman's presentation materials, which are extensive and which are approved for unlimited no-cost use. Frank also provided links to the on-line “Tree Board University” (and recommended that all WTB members complete the course), a guide to generation of Urban Forest Management Plans, and the Arbor Day Foundation. The links are provided below:

<https://www.treeboardu.org>

<https://www.educatedclimber.com/dr-ed-gilman-teaching-series/>

<https://ufmptoolkit.net>

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/>

5. Request from P&R for WTB to clear invasive plants at Fernwood Park

See discussion under “Open Forum” above. Robert Smith said he would get quotes for removal of invasive plants from Fernwood Park and the canal / abandoned railroad right of way area.

6. Proposed Tree Plantings

- a. **Live Oaks between Tim's and Main St.** – Robert Smith said this is private property, and that no trees should be planted where multi-modal paths are planned until they are built.

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b. **Hickories, LL Pines, Live Oaks, and understory trees, Central Park –**

Action: Robert Smith said WTB should mark up the P&R plan for Central Park, to show what trees we recommend and where. The goal is to buy the trees at the same time as we buy the Arbor Day trees and plant them once the Central Park FRDAP project is complete.

c. **Cypress along Lake Bessie shoreline between 9th and 11th Avenues –** Robert Smith said that this makes sense, but would be complicated. It would require coordination with the settlement agreement made years ago with adjacent residents.

7. Review of Tree City USA status and consideration of “Growth Award” application

Current Tree City USA status was not discussed. There was little interest in applying for a Tree City USA growth award.

STAFF & COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS –

- a. **Town Manager Robert Smith –** None. Susan Carter asked whether it was appropriate to discuss concepts for the 1887 Schoolhouse parking lot. Robert Smith said that this should wait till the new facilities are done.
- b. **Public Works Director Scott Brown –** None
- c. **Council Liaison Chris Sapp -** None

Adjournment – With no further business, Frank moved to adjourn, Jackie seconded and the meeting was adjourned by 3/0 vote at 7:13pm.

- **Next Regular Meeting Thursday – June 20, 2019 at 6:00pm**