

MINUTES - Approved

Windermere Tree Board 2021 Arbor Day Workshop **August 12, 2020**

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 Carter (Chairman), Frank Krens (Recording Sec.), Jacqueline Rapport, Leslie Brabec, Debra Neill.
Town Liaison: Liz Andert

Call To Order - Chairman Susan called the Arbor Day / Treebute subcommittee workshop of the WTB to order in the Town Hall, Windermere, FL 34786, at 6:30 p.m. on August 12, 2020. The Chairman welcomed members of the subcommittee and Town liaison, Liz Andert.

Attendance -Tree Board Members present were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, and Frank Krens and Town Council Liaison, Liz Andert.

Announcements – Chairman Susan Carter provided a summary of what worked well in the 2020 event and how we can improve. Treebute 2021 will be on the third Saturday in January, as always. She said that there will be no climbers at the 2021 event. It is unclear whether we will be able to have the event and what form it can take. Large crowds will likely be forbidden. It will be necessary to set up a social distancing procedure, perhaps like is done for Farmers Market. For reference, the 5k and 10k run event will be virtual, the Holiday Hoopla is TBD, and Wind and Dine is cancelled.

What went well:

- Tree fundamentals classes by Dana Sussman were excellent and well attended and received
- Early tree adoption process worked well and was appreciated
- Paperwork was complete and submitted to TOW admin on time
- Trees were healthy and attractive
- Volunteer *Signup Genius* tool and participation were excellent
- Music by the Down Brothers was excellent
- Attendance was good and people had a good time
- Weather was perfect
- Vendors seemed pleased.
- Tree Board financials were good, resulted in ~\$1200 cash.

Things we can improve and ideas to do it differently:

- Improve Communication
- Do the tree education online.
- Time management and assignments – make sure clear assignments are made and that all tasks are covered throughout the day
- Include coverage of the overall event by one Windermere policeman (if alcohol is served, the group providing alcohol would be responsible for a second policeman)

- Set up a separate subcommittee to solicit sponsorship. The subcommittee could include residents who are not WTB members
- T-shirts – Leslie suggested we get T-shirts that are un-dated and that could be customized using a stencil to include the current year date and possible other content and colors.
- Large crowds will likely be forbidden. It will be necessary to set up a social distancing procedure, perhaps like is done for Farmers Market.
- Food handling and presentation will be challenging at best.
- It will likely not be possible to have the pre-schoolers' tree planting. We could consider having a post-COVID victory tree planting, and/or we could provide a tree to the school for the kids to plant there.
- It may not be worthwhile or appropriate to have the band, as people will need to social distance and are less likely to hang around.
- Tree adoption could be set up on-line so that residents can choose and pay in advance, eliminating or at least reducing waiting and standing in line. We need to decide whether residents can buy additional trees and non-residents can buy trees
- Consider including other organizations, e.g. Garden Club, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Nehrling Gardens in the event.

Matters Requiring Clarification

- Whether attendees are permitted to bring their own alcohol and how that will be addressed in the event plan and by police during the event

Other

- Frank Krens said that the Rotary club is interested in forming a partnership with the Tree Board, as a sponsor and food and drinks vendor. Frank said that Rotary had budgeted for that and plans to submit a proposal based on the Primary Event Sponsor concept from the January 2020 Treebute sponsor solicitation.
- Frank said that the Tree Board trailer should be moved to a place where it will be accessible if needed for the 2021 Treebute and that the trailer and the leftover Treebute trees will soon be more difficult to access as they will be behind a chain link fence.
- There was discussion about the above items and moving the potentially valuable 12-foot palm tree that is near the trailer.
- Town Council liaison, Liz Andert said she would explore alternatives for saving the palm tree.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30am.

Next Meeting - TBD