

MINUTES

Windermere Tree Board October 15, 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

1. **Call To Order** - Chairman Susan Carter called the regular meeting of the WTB to order via Zoom, with a quorum on line at 5:02 pm on October 15, 2020.

Tree Board Members in the session were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, and Frank Krens. Public Works Director, Scott Brown, and Town Council Liaison Liz Andert, and Town Council Member Bill Martini were also in the session.

2. **Public Comment** - None

3. **Approval of Minutes** - Jackie Rapport made a motion to approve the September 2020 Minutes with minor corrections, Leslie Brabec seconded and they were approved 4/0.

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Updates -**

- (1) **Trees with Webworms at Palmer Park** – Susan Carter asked if Public Works was aware of the problem. Scott Brown said he would look into it.

- (2) **Farmers Market Coordinator** – Scott Brown said that the deadline for submission of proposals is late October (confirmed after the meeting as October 23, 2020. Here is the link to the solicitation: <https://town.windermere.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RFQ-Farmers-Market-Coordinator.pdf>).

- (3) **Treebute 2021 Update** – Susan Carter said that a modified version of the annual event is still being planned. Jackie Rapport is working with Windermere Elementary to include the kids in ways that avoid any Covid-related safety issues. The Tree Board has identified several potential places near the street in front of Town Hall to plant the Arbor Day Tree.

5. **New Business**

- a. **7th Ave Water Management Proposal and Impact on Trees** – There was consensus that this has been adequately covered in other Town meetings.

- b. Central Park Tree Planting Plan with FL Natives** – Susan Carter presented aerial views of Central Park with potential tree locations suggested by the Garden Club and in general agreement by Parks and Recreation Committee. This would include three (3) trees near the park entrance and several others near the exercise equipment. WTB members and Public Works Director Scott Brown disagreed on whether WTB had the authority to move ahead with informal plans or whether a formal plan from a certified arborist / landscape architect and approval of Town Council was required in this case.

WTB members expressed concern for the cost of such services, whether it would be affordable within the WTB budget, and how WTB could get cost data, for comparison, from various providers. Scott Brown stated that the *Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act. (CNNA)* section of the 2020 Florida Statute (here is a link to it: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0200-0299/0287/Sections/0287.055.html) makes pre-award supplier cost evaluation difficult if not impossible.

Town Council liaison, Liz Andert, stated that this does not require Town Council approval, that the Tree Board can decide, in concert with Parks and Recreation and Public Works to avoid conflicts.

As a far simpler alternative to contracting with a certified arborist / landscape architect firm, Scott Brown offered that WTB and Public Works could work with current TOW landscape maintenance contractor, Dobson, to generate drawings of where the trees would be planted, coordinate with irrigation availability, and plant the trees. Frank Krens noted that an approach like this was taken for the two large oak trees planted by Dobson by the entrance to the 5th Avenue parking lot. While no decision was made, there appeared to be consensus on this approach.

Decision on this was tabled till the next WTB meeting. Susan Carter said she would get an update on how much money WTB had in the budgets for Tree Board operations, Tree Mitigation funds, and Farmers Market funds. Then WTB will meet with Parks and Recreation at their next meeting to discuss the plan and sharing of cost.

- c. Campaign to Promote Replanting Our Canopy** – A potential tree planting spot in the right-of-way at the SW corner of Dirt Main and 7th Avenue was discussed. Scott Brown expressed concern regarding any tree planting in the right-of-way without a coordinated plan. There was consensus that this is a good place for planting of a large oak tree as a succession tree for the nearby large oak that is in decline. No decision was made.
- d. Other Discussion** – As the trees / bushes along the Lake Bessie shoreline were reported to be Wax Myrtles, not invasive species, Frank Krens withdrew his request that it be added to the agenda.

- 6. Adjourn** – Jackie Rapport made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm. Leslie Brabec seconded, and the motion carried 4/0.