

MINUTES - Approved

Windermere Tree Board **August 19, 2021**

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. Beautify our Windermere Parks and Recreation Areas.

Tree Board Members: Susan Carter (Chairman), Frank Krens (Recording Sec.), Jacqueline Rapport, Leslie Brabec, Pamela Schrimsher
Town Liaison: Bill Martini

1. **Call To Order** - Chairman Susan Carter called the regular meeting of the WTB, as an in-person meeting, with a quorum present at 10:03 am in the Town Hall on August 19, 2021.

Tree Board Members present were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, Pamela Schrimsher, and Frank Krens. Town Council liaison Bill Martini, Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, and Public Works Foreman Travis Mathias were present.

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Approval of Minutes** – Jackie Rapport made a motion to approve the May 2021 Minutes as written. Leslie Brabec seconded, and they were approved 5/0.

4. **Old Business**

- a. **Central Park Update:** Chairman Susan Carter said that all trees are doing well and that it's time to remove the tree diapers and store them for future use. Leslie Brabec said that she noticed a sprinkler and a mound of mulch with no tree in it near the park entrance. Susan said she would look into it.
- b. **500 Block Update:** Susan Carter said that the developer agrees to include the Tree Board in review of plans before trees are removed and before new plantings are made. Town Council liaison Bill Martini said he believes development start is 9-12 months away.

5. **New Business**

- a. **2022 Tree Giveaway / Treebute Discussion** – Last year's approach worked well in all regards and feedback from participants was positive. Considering uncertainty in the path of the pandemic, non-availability of the tree climbers, and other factors, there was consensus that a repeat of last year's approach would probably be best for the 2022 event. There was discussion on benefit of giving the trees a rest from the climbers. Travis Mathias suggested that we consider use of Palmer Park and other parks for climbers in the future.

Leslie Brabec made a motion to proceed with the same approach as last year, to include pre-school participation as practical, Pam Schrimsher seconded and the motion passed 5/0.

- b. **Oakdale / 5th Avenue Old Growth Oak Clean-up** – Susan Carter described a situation with stately oak trees mired in vines, deadwood, palms, and debris. Except for one tree, owned by the 500 Block developer, the area is all in Town right-of-way. The Town of Windermere has received a proposal from Enviro Tree Service LLC for removal of that one tree at a cost of \$1500. Susan Carter said the need is to hire an expert independent arborist to assess the situation and to prepare a detailed plan for full clean-up by a contractor under the supervision of the expert arborist. The arborist’s cost would be paid using Tree Board funds.

Leslie Brabec made a motion to proceed to obtain quotes for the independent arborist as noted above, Pam Schrimsher seconded, and the motion carried 5/0. Public Works Director, Tonya Elliott-Moore recommended getting three quotes and Susan Carter agreed to request the quotes.

- c. **Bessie Project Improved Plan** – Susan Carter said efforts are being made to save the oak trees on the corner of 9th Avenue and East Street.
 - d. **Historic Citrus Grove** – The trees were fertilized, as a volunteer effort, by resident Tom Stroup, at his expense. Susan Carter noted that the trees need pruning and it is very difficult to find suitable help. Jackie Rapport noted that there is other maintenance needed as will and we may need to do it ourselves.
 - e. **New Ideas** – Tree Board member Pam Schrimsher had several recommendations. She described an article on the ability of trees to lower the temperature in the surrounding area presented in the July 2021 issue of the National Geographic magazine. Pam suggested that it would be a good topic for an article in the Gazette. Pam also recommended that significant trees be tagged to retain important information and said she had experience doing that. She also suggested we have some sort of welcome package that would include basic tree related rules and information for new residents. There was discussion about holding a workshop for town residents on the tree ordinance, code compliance, state statutes, and related matters, possibly with participation of the City Planner.
6. **Adjourn** – Jackie Rapport made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank Krens seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.