

MINUTES - Approved

Windermere Tree Board October 21, 2022

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. THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER

Tree Board Chairman Susan Carter called the meeting to order at 9:35am on the planned site of the Ward Trail, near the intersection of Lake Butler Blvd. and South Lake Butler Blvd. The requirement for a quorum was met.

Participants were:

- **Tree Board** – Susan Carter, Leslie Brabec, Pamela Schrimsher, and Frank Krens
- **Town Council** - liaison Bill Martini
- **Developer Team** – Michael Woodward of Kimley-Horne
- **Public** – Vicki Hearst (Town resident and Windermere Garden Club member with extensive landscape design expertise) participated throughout the meeting. Michael Torkos of 3452 South Lake Butler Blvd. was present for a portion of the meeting near his home by the bridge.

2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT – None

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Minutes

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved during the meeting. Pam Schrimsher made a motion to approve the minutes with addition of a missing statement from Pam Schrimsher that the “Windermere look” will be lost if large trees along the main streets are not preserved. Leslie Brabec seconded and the motion passed 4/0.

b. Ward Trail Recommendations

Kimley-Horne representative Michael Woodward and Town resident and Garden Club member Vicki Hearst each came prepared with extensively marked-up copies of the Kimley-Horne Landscape plan to aid in the discussion and recommendations. A photo copy of Vicki's mark-up is provided as an addendum to this report.

Participants first walked north along Maguire road to the intersection at Park Avenue and then south to the canal, with discussions, references to the Kimley-Horne Landscape Plan, and recommendations along the way.

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Area Just south of Lake Butler Blvd - There are four large healthy pine trees (#83, 84, 85, 86) planned for removal in this area. According to the Kimley-Horne rep, it would be extremely difficult and expensive to save these trees given complications with the trail and its associated drainage system. This assessment was generally accepted by Tree Board members.

Area Just north of Lake Butler Blvd - Tree #87, a large live oak close to the path is planned for removal. Consensus and strong recommendation from Tree Board members and others was that this tree should be saved and that it can easily be saved by meandering the path slightly to the west and around the tree and, if necessary, reducing the path width in that spot.

Tree Board recommends that Tree #88 also be saved if practical.

Area near the power line over Maguire Road – Vicki Hearst recommended more cypress trees be planted in this area, north of the power line crossing, and that pond cypress and possibly more oaks be planted there. Vicki stated that pond cypress trees are much preferred to bald cypress along walks, since pond cypress trees don't grow cypress knees.

Area Just south of the Rotary club banner pillars – The Landscape Plan shows removal of more cypress trees than may be necessary. Consensus was that only the two cypress trees closest to the existing walkway need to be removed. It was noted that plantings north of the Rotary pillars should be very limited to avoid blocking the view to them from the north, as they are used extensively to display banners for upcoming Town events. The area just south of the pillars has one crepe myrtle, is otherwise open, and could use more trees and / or landscaping.

South edge of the roundabout at Lake Butler Blvd. – Vicki Hearst noted that roots of the large live oak next to the road have lifted the sidewalk somewhat and will continue to do so. She suggested moving the sidewalk slightly to the north to help mitigate the problem.

Area South of Lake Butler Blvd (across from houses #3340 - 3344) – Vicki Hears made several recommendations for this area: 1) Plant loblolly bay, tupelo, sweet gum, and pond cypress in / near the swales, fewer live oaks and pines, and no palms. 2) For sloped areas plant trees with strong root systems or deep tap roots, such as cypress, magnolia, and nagi. 3) Simplify plant beds so that mature growth doesn't overgrow the path. 4) Reduce the number of plants and increase spacing since there will be no embedded irrigation. For example, plant zamia at 5 ft. centers vs. 3 ft., plant dune sunflowers at 3 ft. centers not 1 ft., lantana at 30 in. centers not 18 in. and use native varieties not hybrids. 5) Plant understory trees such as Simpson Stopper here and elsewhere.

Area near the canal – This area includes a lot of invasive growth. Town resident Michael Torkos, who lives in that area, and others present, stated concern that care should be taken to avoid removing too much growth as it provides a beneficial noise and visual buffer from Maguire road traffic. Vicki Hearst recommended that, before removal starts, this area be marked with flagging tape to mark trees and vegetation that should be kept. It was recommended to be a joint effort by Tree Board and contractor personnel.

c. January 2023 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

- i. **Plan to discuss tree selections in November** – Susan Carter encouraged Tree Board members to come up with ideas for tree selections by the November Tree Board meeting and to consider native, wind resistant, and under-story varieties. Tree

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Giveaway is usually the third Saturday in January (January 21 this time), but the second Saturday will also be considered. Tree orders should be placed by early December. Eddie McKeithen's company has been a reliable source for years and will be considered again this year.

d. Plantings

i. Replace/replant Town Square where multiple trees have been removed

Susan Carter noted the need for a replanting project on Town Square to replace the many mature trees have already been lost plus two more that will be lost with preparation for build of the pavilion. Bill Martini noted that, while there is a Town-approved plant list, the list can easily be revised and exceptions made.

ii. Proposal to plant the island at Windermere Rec Center / Butler Bay during Earth Day 2023

Susan Carter noted that irrigation would not be needed for plantings on the island as it is low and gets plenty of moisture from the lake.

4. ADJOURN – With no further business, Frank Krens moved to adjourn, Leslie Brabec seconded and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20am.