

# **MINUTES – APPROVED**

## **Windermere Tree Board** **August 18, 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. CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman Susan Carter called a regular meeting of the WTB, as an in-person meeting, with a quorum present at 10:11 am on August 18, 2022 in the Windermere Town Hall. Tree Board Members present were: Susan Carter, Jackie Rapport, Leslie Brabec, Pam Schrimsher, and Frank Krens. Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore, Town Council liaison Bill Martini, and Town Planner Brad Cornelieus were present. The following persons associated with the 500-Block development were present: Brett Darcis(Sp?) (V3), Keith Silverman (V3), Marcus Geiger (Kimley-Horne), Arborist Eric Hoyer (NRPS Inc.), and Arpan Patel (Kimley-Horne).

**2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Ward Trail Landscaping Update**

i. 90% Plans Landscape Plan & Tree Mitigation Plan

WTB Chair Susan Carter stated additional concerns after another walk of the property and further review of the Plan. TC Liaison Bill Martini suggested that WTB members walk the property again in the next week or so. Public Works Director, Tonya Elliott-Moore offered to coordinate it. The intent is to provide recommendations for minor changes to the plan, not a request for the plan to be redone.

ii. Plant Selections

Following the walk, WTB may recommend changes to plant selections.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Minutes** - Jackie Rapport moved to approve the Minutes of the July 7, 2022 meeting, Frank Krens seconded. Without discussion, the Minutes were approved 5/0.

**b. 500-Block Redevelopment Review & Recommendations**

Copies of the following Kimley-Horn documents were provided for review during the meeting:

- i. Tree Mitigation Plan dated 2/18/2022
- ii. Landscape Plan dated 2/18/2022
- iii. Overall Landscape Plan dated 2/18/2022
- iv. Tree Canopy Exhibit dated 2/18/2022

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**Saving more trees** - There was discussion, led by WTB Chair Susan Carter, covering the extent to which mature tree canopy along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street is being lost and whether there is potential to save some of the large oaks that are planned for removal. Kimley-Horn rep Brett Darcis(Sp?) stated that the developer has worked hard to save as many trees as possible, that they saved 35 trees of which 24 are oaks.

- Removal of Tree #65 will be a major loss of canopy and shade on Main Street. This tree is within the building footprint and there appears to be no way to save it.
- Tree #1 is in the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue right-of-way and would be addressed under the Town's city sidewalk plan. Town Planner, Brad Cornelieus stated that it may be possible to save it. However, the right turn lane into the project must be retained and the sidewalk would have to be moved.

**Pam Schrimsher made a motion to ask the Town Administration to take action to protect tree #1 if possible. Leslie Brabec seconded and the motion passed 5/0.** Brad Cornelieus said he would work with Marcus Geiger to see if it can be done.

Bill Martini asked if the developer would mark the property to show where the buildings will be. Brett Darcis(Sp?) said they would stake the property to show where the buildings and the wall along Oakdale Street will be.

**Landscaping Discussion** – Susan Carter expressed concern that planned landscaping may be excessive in that it may compete for water to the detriment of trees.

**Pam Schrimsher made a motion that Tree Board pursue a joint workshop with the landscape architect and developer staff to review root zone issues before the Town Council workshop in December. Leslie Brabec seconded and the motion passed 5/0.**

**Tree Canopy Discussion** – Susan Carter lamented the major loss of mature oaks on Town Square and suggested that Tree Board come up with a plan to replant. Tonya Elliott-Moore suggested that WTB develop a policy and guidelines for trees on town property. Frank Krens said that other towns may have plans that we can learn from or adapt to our situation. Brad Cornelieus said that Tampa has an excellent plan and Tonya said that Winter Park does as well and that it may be productive to visit to see what they have.

**5. Adjourn** – With no further business Susan Carter moved to adjourn, Pam Schrimsher seconded and by a vote of 5/0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.