

MINUTES - Approved

Windermere Tree Board September 26, 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 2:00pm on the corner of the project property, at Main Street and 6th Avenue and the requirement for a quorum was met.

Participants were:

- **Tree Board** – Susan Carter, Leslie Brabec, Pamela Schrimsher, Jackie Rapport, and Frank Krens
- **Town Council** - liaison Bill Martini
- **TOW Admin** – Town Engineer John Fitzgibbon, Public Works Foreman Travis Mathias
- **Developer Team** – Brett Dargis (V3), Keith Silverman (V3), Marcus Geiger (KHA), Eric Hoyer (NRPS arborist for V3)
- **Public** – Vickie Hearst (resident and Windermere Garden Club); Brandi Haines (resident), Debra Neill (resident), Daniel Floyd (resident).

2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT –

Vickie Hearst stated that it appears from the rendering that space in several areas is very tight - including frontage on Main St. and 6th Avenue and areas in the back. She asked for clarification on this and how the sidewalk will meander to accommodate tree roots.

Brandi Haines asked for clarification on location of several stakes along 6th Avenue.

Daniel Floyd asked who all the other participants were.

3. JOINT SITE VISIT BETWEEN WINDERMERE TREE BOARD AND DEVELOPER'S LANDSCAPE TEAM / ARBORIST

Response to Public Comments

- Brett Dargis, Pete Silverman provided clarification on stake positions and what they indicate and stated that stake locations now correspond accurately with the survey.
- Councilman Bill Martini questioned why previous stakes placements were not done according to the survey.
- Brett Dargis stated that there have been some changes to stake locations but that most are additional stakes.

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- Pam Schrimsher commented that the “Windermere Look” will be lost if large oak trees along the main streets are not preserved.

a. Review landscape plan in relation to tree root zones and spacing.

Main Street / 6th Avenue

V3 reps pointed out the stakes showing the corners of the building. There was discussion and recognition that the Rain Tree and others in that area would not be saved, but that the Sabal palm, the big oak overhanging Main Street, and the small trees in the cutouts will be saved.

Debra Neill asked what the wall along 6th Avenue will look like. V3 rep, Brett Dargis described the construction and appearance. The finish will be stucco to match the appearance of the building. He stated that the wall would be largely obscured by the landscaping.

It was confirmed that Town tree #68 will be saved and that the sidewalk will meander to accommodate it. There was discussion as to whether tree #1 could be saved by curving the sidewalk around it. It was recognized that this would be a Town responsibility. Arborist Eric Hoyer noted that root pruning would be part of the recommended accommodation.

There was discussion about line-of sight pertaining to traffic going west on 6th Avenue. It was agreed that clear line of sight to oncoming traffic (that is, to the south) is critical, but the new building and associated landscaping will not affect that.

Brett Dargis pointed out the trees that will be lost near and within the back corner of the building.

Entryway Area on 6th Avenue

Marcus Geiger stated that the entry drive was configured to accommodate the big live oak in that area and that the large camphor tree and tall oak “stump” would go.

Oakdale Street

Marcus Geiger stated that the wall will transition from 6-ft high to 3-ft high as it goes from 6th Avenue to Oakdale Street, with the exact spot of transition open to discussion – either before or after the 45-degree segment. The developer requested a recommendation from the Town.

Susan Carter asked about the overall plan for tree protection during construction. Brett Dargis stated that there will be an arborist on the project and that it will follow standards, to include:

- Root pruning if appropriate
- Tree barricades
- Silt fence.

Mid-point Area of Oakdale Street Block

V3 Reps confirmed their plans to clean up the tree cluster mid-block but that they will save the huge podocarpus tree. Stakes have been placed to show where the wall along Oakdale Street will be. It is further from the street than most expected and was a pleasant surprise.

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Area by Town Park

V3 Reps stated that suckers and other wild growth around the big oak at the northeast corner of the property will be cleaned up. They said they will plant some new trees in this area and will document their plans.

V3 Reps described the plan and specific location of a decorative wood fence bordering the Town park. The north boundary of the property, as marked by stakes, roughly coincides with the brick pillars marking the park. This was surprising to Town reps as the stakes show that the golf cart path along the Town park is within the property of the developer.

V3 Reps said that the wood fence would be sandwiched between rows of plants. Vickie Hearst stated that a wood fence would rapidly deteriorate from trapped moisture in that case. She recommended that landscaping along the wood fence be avoided and that small shade tolerant trees, such as podocarpus be used instead.

Area Adjacent to Neighboring Property

V3 Reps were asked about their plan to protect two large trees that are on neighboring property, but extremely close to their building wall. V3 Reps stated that they will accommodate the roots of those trees by using a floating foundation near them and air-spading the supports, and that they will consider notching the wall with a 6-inch bump-out to stay clear of the trees.

Patio Area Tree

V3 Reps stated that they will take the following approach to help the big tree survive and prosper.

- 12-ft diameter mulch/landscaping area around the tree
- Wane (trademark) “feeders” installed in the impervious areas. These are 4-inch diameter, 12-14 inches deep plastic sleeves to pass water, air, and nutrients to the roots. The impervious area will be constructed of brick pavers to match those on the streets.

V3 Reps stated that they will have an arborist on staff during the construction and that they will present the courtyard design at the next workshop. Vickie Hearst suggested a rectangular area instead of a circle around the tree because a rectangular approach could better accommodate placement of benches over the mulched area and may result in greater mulched space.

Wrap-up

There was discussion about scheduling another Tree Board meeting to review new information from the developer. At this interim meeting, the Tree Board would generate and submit a list of comments and recommendations for coordination with new developer input thru Brad Cornelius.

Councilman Bill Martini thanked all for their participation and noted that Town representatives may have more questions of the developer prior to the 90% review in November.

4. ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.