

MINUTES - Approved

Windermere Tree Board

May 18, 2023

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 Secretary), Pamela Schrimsher; Town Liaison: Tom Stroup

1. THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER

Tree Board Chairman Susan Carter called the meeting to order at 10:12am in the Community Conference Room at 614 Main Street, Building 100, Windermere, FL 34786. The requirement for a quorum was met.

Participants:

- **Tree Board** – Susan Carter, Pamela Schrimsher, and Frank Krens
- **TOW Public Works** – Tonya Elliott-Moore, Public Works Director
- **TOW Resident** – Bill Martini
- **500 Block developer V3 Representatives** – Trey Vick and Keith Silverton

2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT – None

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Other Items for Consideration

i. Approved Trees to be Planted – Susan Carter recalled that the Tree Board approved a motion during the March Tree Board meeting to plant two live oak or nuttall oak trees by Central Park where a large live oak was lost plus two trees on Fourth Street by the tennis courts. PW Director Tonya Elliot-Moore said that Public Works now has the authority and action to obtain and plant those trees.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Minutes** – Pam Schrimsher moved to approve the March 2023 minutes as written, Frank Krens seconded, and they were approved 3/0.

b. Membership

- i. Leslie Brabec Resignation** – TOW has received Leslie's resignation.
- ii. Susan Carter Resignation** – Susan's planned move is in June and she will submit her resignation from the Tree Board.

c. Other Items for Consideration

MINUTES - Approved

i. Windermere Tree Board Final Recommendation on Downtown Windermere Properties 500 Block Redevelopment Project

Replanting Program - Susan Carter complemented the developer's representatives on their continued cooperation with the Tree Board throughout the review and approval process. She highlighted the developer's offer to provide 1500 inches of new trees of types that are best for the Town rather than paying mitigation fees. Town Planner Brad Cornelius stated that the code specifies "type for type". Developer representative restated that they would provide what is best for the Town. Frank Krens asked who would decide where to plant to trees and who would provide the expertise and labor. PW Director Tonya Elliot-Moore said that decisions would be worked out among Tree Board, Public Works, and Town Council and Public Works will plant them.

Contingency Plans – Susan Carter asked whether the developer had contingency plans for the case where a saved tree, in particular the very large "Patio Tree", failed to survive. Developer representative Trey Vick said that the developer does not have contingency plans for that. Town Planner Brad Cornelius said that the normal path is for the developer to replace any removed trees with like variety, recognizing that an new trees would be much smaller.

Podocarpus Cluster on Oakdale Street – Susan Carter noted that the developer's plan shows saving only one of the large podocarpus trees in the right-of-way along Oakdale Street. Trey Vick recognized that the drawing does not show the detail of the cluster, but that the developer will not touch trees in the right-of-way. Frank Krens asked for clarification on that point since plans show trees removed along the Sixth Avenue right-of-way. Trey clarified that there are exceptions, in particular near the entrance to the property from Sixth Avenue.

Multiple Issues: Mulching, Potential Overwatering of Tree Roots, Removal and Re-planting of Crepe Myrtles Along Main Street – Susan Carter pointed out areas where sprinkler systems for St. Augustine grass may result in overwatering of trees. Pam Schrimsher asked whether there was a follow-up plan to ensure that things like watering and mulching are done properly. Town Planner Brad Cornelius stated that code enforcement will have some oversight, but that "nobody polices private property". Susan Carter asked why mature multi-trunk crepe myrtles along Main Street are planned for removal and to be replaced small single trunk crepe myrtles. She also noted that the Town clock is in that area and may be impacted. Bill Martini noted that those trees were never approved for removal. Developer representatives stated that the exact location of the existing trees could interfere with the hard-scape design and changes to the crosswalk. He said that they will save them if they can and will provide clarification/update at the June 20 DRB.

PW Director Tonya Elliot-Moore provided the following as a summary path forward to many of these issues:

1. Remove all old mulch from around the trees before re-mulching.
2. Developer will replace trees for the Town to plant at their discretion. The number of trees will equate to 151 DBH worth of trees. Trees provided by the developer will be kind for kind.
3. If trees that were saved as part of the collaboration on the developers' property die within one year, the developer's agreement will require them to replace the trees in kind, as per Town code.
4. Currently the area where trees 48-50 are located call for St. Augustine sod, tree board requests that the St. Augustine around the base of the trees be limited and mulch be used at the bases.
5. Around tree 18, the large 28-inch DBH, define the root protection zone on the plans, so the distance from the tree and clearly be seen.

MINUTES - Approved

6. Identify what is being proposed on Main Street by the crepe myrtles.

Elms – Susan Carter asked that native American Elms be planted instead of the Chinese elms shown in the drawings.

Hollies – Susan Carter asked that Eagleston hollies be planted instead of East Palatka hollies.

Wall Height – Trey Vicks stated that the wall is now planned at six feet height along Oakdale, stepping down to three feet as it approaches the Sixth Avenue entrance to the property. Trey also said the developer would plant donated trees along Oakdale if wanted.

Motion to Approve – Pam Schrimsher made a motion that Tree Board recommend approval of the current plans as discussed with exception of anything in the right-of-way and Main Street. Frank Krens seconded and the motion passed 3/0.

ii. Future direction of the Windermere Tree Board

Membership Drive - Tonya Elliot-Moore stated that Diane Edwards will advertise Tree Board membership openings through the Town website. Pam Schrimsher and Frank Krens said they would also look for new members, possibly through a booth at Town events as well as through other means.

Board Charter – Pam Schrimsher noted that there does not appear to be a documented charter for the Tree Board nor an orientation for new members. Bill Martini stated that Tree Board should not be responsible for policing unapproved tree removal by residents. Tonya Elliot-Moore said she would discuss Tree Board responsibilities with Town Manager Robert Smith.

June 20 DRB – Tree Board members are encouraged to attend.

5. ADJOURN – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.

6. NEXT MEETING – To be announced.