

# **MINUTES – APPROVED**

## **Windermere Tree Board** **August 17, 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: Frank Krens (Recording Secretary), Pamela Schrimsher; Town Liaison: Tom Stroup

### **1. THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER**

Tree Board Secretary Frank Krens called the meeting to order at 10:02am in the Community Conference Room at 614 Main Street, Building 100, Windermere, FL 34786.

Frank asked all present to introduce themselves and tell a little about their interests and backgrounds as they relate to Tree Board. Frank thanked all for attending and welcomed their participation in the meeting and the future activities of the Tree Board.

#### **Participants:**

- **Tree Board** – Pamela Schrimsher, Frank Krens
- **TOW Public Works** – Travis Mathias, Public Works Operations Manager
- **Town Planner** – Brad Cornelius
- **WTB Applicants** – Joan Foglia, Vickie Hearst, Bonnie DiCocco
- **Other Town Residents** – Brandi Haines. Vanessa Astrup, baby Astrup

**2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT** – All present introduced themselves and spoke of their current roles or their vocational experience related to Tree Board matters and their reason for attending.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Other Items for Consideration**

**i. 500 Block Status** – Town Planner Brad Cornelius reported that the Town gave final approval for the project on August 15. The developer is required to mitigate 151 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) of tree and that it will be accomplished through planting of new trees, vs. paying mitigation fees. The trees may be planted at the Town Council sees fit. The crepe myrtles along Main Street will not be removed. The project cannot begin until septic and water connection permits have been approved by Orange County. Demolition permits will then be applied for. Oversight of project will be by Town employees and Town Council. Potential renters include a boutique Ace Hardware, a wine tasting shop, and the corporate office of a company producing rides for theme parks.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- Minutes** – Pam Schrimsher moved to approve the May 18, 2023 minutes as written, Frank Krens seconded, and they were approved 2/0.

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- b. Membership** – Frank Krens noted that the WTB currently has two members. [Susan Carter has moved away and resigned from her position as Chairman. Susan served on the Tree Board from 2011 to 2023 and as chairman from 2019 to 2023. Her knowledge and support enabled the developer of the 500 block of Main Street to find ways to save over half of the trees on the property. She presided over the maintenance of the historic orange grove on Forest Street and 7th Avenue, supervised re-plantings at Central Park, and planned the annual tree giveaway each January. We are sorry to see her go and wish her the best in her new adventures!]
- i. New Member Application** – Joan Foglia.
  - ii. New Member Application** – Vickie Hearst
  - iii. New Member Application** – Bonnie DiCocco

Frank thanked the three applicants for their interest and recognized the exceptionally strong and applicable backgrounds of all three applicants. **Motion:** Frank Krens made a motion to recommend that Town Council accept all three applicants at the next Town Council meeting. Pam Schrimsher seconded and the motion passed 2/0. TC Liaison Tom Stroup said he would make sure TC acts on it.

- iv. Tree Board Chair** – Election of Officers was deferred till the next meeting. Frank said that he would accept the position of WTB Chair. Bonnie DiCocco said that she would accept the position of Secretary.
- v. New Member Orientation** – Pam suggested that a Florida Sunshine Law video be made available to all new members. Frank said he would ask Diane Edwards if she could set it up.
- vi. Outreach Ideas for Additional Members** – Resident Brandi Haines said that another resident, Olga ?? has submitted an application (which appears to have been lost), and that she will re-submit it. It was stated that at least 2 others may submit applications.

## **c. Other Items for Consideration**

- i. Develop WTB Charter** – Pam said she could not find one online. She said she would call Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter for information about existence of a WTB charter.
- ii. Meeting Date/Time Change** – The current meeting time of 10am on the third Thursday seemed to be generally ok with the existing members and the three applicants. The plan is to continue meeting at that time, but to change if needed to accommodate all members.
- iii. Plantings** –

### **1. Status of Approved Plantings**

**1a. Central Park** – Vickie Hearst said that two pines planted at Central Park have died. She suggested planting two Nageia nagi trees that she got from Susan Carter in their place. Pam said she hoped they could be replaced with native trees.

**1b. Main Street Tennis Courts** – It was reported that plantings at the tennis courts has been approved, and Enviro Tree Service has been contracted to do the work.

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2. **Scope and Coordination of Additional Planting** –Several approaches to new tree planting programs were discussed. WTB could make a comprehensive long-range plan, to potentially include a grant program, or could focus more on the immediate and urgent need. It was noted that there is effectively a moratorium on major plantings in the right-of-ways so as not to interfere with planned/potential underground utilities.
  - a. Vickie Hearst said that the island at Windermere Recreation Area needs trees.
  - b. Pam Schrimsher recalled that WTB had approved hiring a company to spray the citrus trees at the historic grove on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Forest Street for greening at 3-month intervals for a year with the proviso that videos be taken at the beginning, and after 3, 6, and 9 months to see if the affected trees were improving. Pam said she would check with Bill Martini, who had offered to take the video to see if it has been done.
3. **Follow-up on Status of TOW Approved Plant List** – Brad Cornelius said he would check into this.

#### **iv. Other Matters**

- Tree Data Base – It was stated that the tree survey is very useful. Pam Schrimsher said she would ask Public Works Director Tonya Elliott-Moore who can access it and how.
- Windermere Gazette – An article written by Frank Krens with help from Vickie Hearst and Joan Foglia will appear in the Fall edition.
- Agenda Items for the next meeting:
  - Election of officers
  - Potential new members
  - Update on the Historic Grove
  - WTB Charter
  - Tree Survey Database Access
  - Budget for Plantings
  - Future Projects

6. **NEXT MEETING** – September 21, 2023, 10am Community Conference Room

7. **ADJOURN** – 11:25am