**Windermere Tree Board**

**Minutes (Approved)**

**December 19, 2024**

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-Chairman, Pamela Schrimsher-Treasurer, Vicki Hearst- Vice Chair, Bonnie DiCocco-Secretary, Joan Foglia, Olga Aleksandrova, Elena LaRochelle

1. **THE MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR**

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 9:30am.

* Tree Board members Vicki Hearst, Joan Foglia, Olga Aleksandrova, Elena LaRochelle, and Frank Krens participated.
* Public Works Director/Assistant Town Manager Tonya Elliott-Moore participated.

**2. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT (3-Minutes Limit) -** None

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Tree Ordinance (focus of this meeting)**

Discussion focused on the rate charged for removal of protected trees without an arborist assessment documenting the risk/need. There was consensus that the current rate of $75/ inch of DBH (diameter breast high) charged by TOW is too low in general and specifically does not include cost of replanting. WTB members researched rates charged by other Florida towns and founds rates as high as $225/inch.

Vicki made a motion to pursue raising the fee from the current $75/inch of DBH to $175 and to recommend that Brad Cornelius or Chris Thompson of Wade Trim present this recommended change to Town Council for approval via resolution. The motion passed 5/0 and Tonya said she would ask Brad to do it.

**b. Centennial Trees Applications Update 12.12.24 (Attachments)**

Vicki reported that we have 47 applications so far, including some to plant in HOA – owned/controlled areas and that she is still working to include a blend of types including various types of oak.

**c. Tree Giveaway Status, Plans, Logistics**

The schedule:

* Wed. Jan. 15 (tentative, time TBD, 5th Ave. parking lot) - Tree delivery, unload, and organize. Tonya said that Public Works support the WTB members who are available and would help unload. Frank said he would ask for ten strong volunteers from the Lone Sailor Division with help from Olympia HS if needed.
* Thu. Jan 16, 9:15am, 5th Ave. parking lot – next meeting. Also, WTB will meet at 2pm at Windermere Recreation Center for a tree planting.
* Sat. Jan 18, 8am – 2pm (approx.), 5th Ave. parking lot) - Tree Giveaway and Centennial Tree Program
  + Elena made a motion to allot up to $250 for refreshments for volunteers and members. Vicki seconded and it passed 5/0.

**d. Holiday Hoopla Report**

Joan Foglia said that the WTB table was well attended and that we received one new application. WTB members Joan Foglia, Bonnie Di Cocco, and Frank Krens set up and operated the WTB table and HPB table and refreshments. Pam Schrimsher participated in the attendee signup table.

**e. Strategic Plan Approved Actions Next Steps**

1. **Develop a landscape plan for the schoolhouse property**

Vicki said she has a copy of a plan provided by Stephen Withers and that she would provide to Tonya for distribution and review by all WTB members. It was suggested that Pam Schrimsher review the plan with the Historic Preservation Board for their consideration. Frank mentioned that WTB secretary Bonnie Di Cocco is a Landscape designer and may be able to help. Tonya stated that Bonnie could bid the project and that Town policy is to seek at least three bidders.

1. **Hold an educational event at the Elders Luncheon**

After discussion, it was decided to plan for the April 8, 2024 Luncheon and to focus the presentation on recognition and avoidance of tree removal scams which have become prevalent and which target the elderly. Joan said she would contact Wade Trim and/or IFAS to obtain a knowledgable speaker for the event.

**iii. Focus on update of the Tree Ordinance (Attachments) –** see 3.e above

**iv. Plan a Tree Walk in the Fall in coordination with the Centennial Committee**

After discussion it was decided to schedule a tree walk in coordination with the November Veterans Day event, tentatively scheduled for November 9, 2024. Frank said he would contact Lilian to get it on the schedule and WPD Detective Mark Wilson, coordinator for the Lone Sailor Division to start the coordination process.

**f. Reports and Administrative Matters –** none

**g. Financial Report (Pam Schrimsher) –** deferred

**h. Other Reports - none**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. MINUTES (Attachments) –** Tabled to the next meeting.

**i. Tree Board Ordinance Subcommittee Minutes of November 14, 2024 Meeting**

**ii. WTB Minutes of November 21, 2024, Meeting**

**b. Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Trailer repair needs and schedule.

**5. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION -** none

**a. Date and time for next meeting –** Thursday January 16, 2025, 9:15am in the 5th Avenue parking lot

**6. ADJOURN –** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00