WINDERMERE TREE BOARD

**Minutes (Approved)**

**November 21, 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

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR at 9:18am**

**In attendance:**

**Tree Board Members:** Frank Krens, Vicki Hearst, Bonnie DiCocco, Pam Schrimsher, Olga Aleksandrova, Elena LaRochelle, Joan Foglia

**Public Works:** Tonya Elliott-Moore

**Town Council:** Brandi Haines

**1. OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC COMMENT (3-Minutes Limit)**

a. No public comment.

**2. MINUTES**

a. **Minutes for the October 17, 2024 meeting (Attachments) -** Pam made a motion to approve the minutes. Vicki seconded. Motion carried.

**3. OFFICER / COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. **Financial Report (Pam Schrimsher)** 
   1. No expenses in September and October
   2. Going forward, Pam will submit the reports to be included in the agenda prior to the meetng.
2. **Brief Discussion of Tree-Related Public Works Budget Items to Avoid Duplication in WTB Budget Planning** 
   1. Tonya clarified that her budget covers the Arbor Day trees.
   2. Canopy and Right of Way tree budgets exist as part of the overall Public Words budget as well.
3. **Other Reports** 
   1. No other reports were presented.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Any Update on Status of 500 Block Mitigation Plantings**
   1. Tonya spoke with John Fitzgibbon and let us know that some of the fencing is coming down around the 500 Block Project. The site will still be properly secured utilizing the existng walls.
   2. The developer is adhering to the tree protections per the mitgation plan.
   3. Tree 8 has been removed as it was a danger in the right of way and tree 24 will need removal due to work by Duke Energy and the determination that the tree could not withstand the surrounding work. A camphor tree near tree 24 will also be removed. The camphor is invasive.
   4. Based upon the initial mitgation number and the inches added based upon the additional tree removals that have occurred, the Developer is now responsible for 210” of trees at dbh.
2. **Consideration & Potential Cost of Having Davey Update the Digital Tree Survey**
3. A representative of Greehill reached out to Tonya regarding the tree survey.
4. Tonya has not been able to make contact with Davey yet. Pam made a motion to approach Greehill re: updating the survey with tree species. If a satsfactory resolution is not met, it is recommended that we seek an intern to update the tree survey. Vicki seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c. **Presentation of Notes from the Arborist Convention** - This will not be discussed further.

d. **500 Block - Clarification by Brad Cornelius of Protection Methods Around Trees**

i. See notes above in 4a.

e. **Deep-Dive into the Strategic Plan and Implementation – the Focus of this Meeting**

1. The floor was opened to ideas from each Tree Board member to propose projects to implement near-term. Tonya reminded us that now that we have defined strategies and goals, the next step is to define tactics, more specific and detailed plans.
2. The mitgation fees and fines are a priority.
3. Pam suggested a future project to design a landscape plan around the historic grove and schoolhouse. It would fall under the education portion of our strategic plan.
4. Joan suggested making a plan for a freeze at the Historic Grove.

**4**

1. Vicki suggested:
   1. tree ordnance update,
   2. partcipation in the Centennial
   3. tree grants,
   4. outreach via real estate companies,
   5. a tree walk in the Fall in 2025. She sees it as an informal event, not a large event,
   6. schoolhouse maintenance,
   7. specific educational programs
2. Joan suggested:
   1. that we focus on one big event and a program at the schoolhouse,
   2. a Town Square project,
   3. tree plantings in the Rotary Park area near the olde Boathouses,
   4. update the approved tree list,
   5. education vis presentation at the Elders Lunch and in the Gazette.

1. Frank suggested:

a. an educational program for organizations in the Town that have large numbers of late-in-life

trees, particularly laurel oaks. It could include:

1. the Family Church property which has many mature trees, almost exclusively laurel

oaks.

1. The Jennifer Lane HOA, which has dozens of end-of-life laurel oaks, many in obvious

decline, some of which have fallen, others marked for removal.

1. The Willows, The Manors, and Marina Bay.
2. Others.
3. Elena suggested:
   1. educa? on relevant to the recent Town Square survey,
   2. contac?ng specific residents with recommenda?ons
4. Pam suggested:
   1. a landscape plan for the schoolhouse property
   2. A? er discussion, Joan made a mo? on as follows, Olga seconded, and it was approved unanimously: Develop and landscape plan for the schoolhouse property.
   3. hold an educa?onal event at the Elders Luncheon
   4. focus on update of the Tree Ordinance
   5. plan a tree walk in the Fall in coordina? on with the Centennial Commi? ee.

f. **Status/Update on the Centennial Celebration Tree Planting Program and Applications**

i. Tonya brought table cards and plantng/pruning cue cards to the meeting. Tree Board will be using these to allow people to apply for a Legacy Tree and as educational materials regarding planting and pruning at Town events.

1. Vicki further suggested the following trees for the Arbor Day celebration DD Blanchard Magnolia, Silver Mist Magnolia, Colicwood, Simpson stopper, FL Thatch Palm.
2. Council member Brandi Haines made a comment suggesting we look into a native FL olive tree for next year’s giveaway.
3. Vicki made a motion to provide a bag of sustainable mulch with each tree at the giveaway. Bonnie seconded the motion. Mo?on carried.

g. **WTB/IFAS Meetings Nov 6 and Jan 8**i. These meetings have been cancelled. We will revisit in our strategic plan.

h. **Status of Second Opinion on Hickory Tree at 540 Ridgewood Drive**i. The Town arborist does not believe that reassessing the tree is necessary. His professional opinion is

that it does not need to be removed.

i. **Holiday Hoopla Participation Plan (Check, Tasks, Materials)** i. Bonnie, Frank, and Joan will man the booth.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. No new business

**6. POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

* 1. The Tree Ordnance

**7. DATE AND TIME FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING**

a. December 19, 9:15am

**8. ADJOURN**

a. Pam made a motion to adjourn, Vicki seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.