



AGENDA
CITY TREE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 19, 2021
10:30 AM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034

- 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
 - 3.1 Approval of Minutes for the May 5, 2021 City Tree Meeting.
- 4. BOARD BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 Tree Website Page and GIS panel discussion
 - 4.2 Design Professional panel discussion - June 2, 2021 meeting
- 5. MEMBER COMMENTS**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

THE NEXT CITY TREE COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2, 2021

All members of the public are invited to be present and be heard. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the City Clerk at (904) 310-3115 or TTY/TDD 711 (for the hearing or speech impaired). All interested parties may appear at said meeting and be heard as to the advisability of any action, which may be considered with respect to such matter. For information regarding this matter, please contact the Planning Department (904) 310-3135.

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM
City of Fernandina Beach



SUBJECT:

ITEM TYPE: Preliminary Subdivision Plat

REQUESTED ACTION:

SYNOPSIS:

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Jacob Platt, Senior Planner

Kelly N. Gibson, AICP, Planning Director

Tammi E. Bach, City Attorney

Date: May 12, 2021

Submitted By: Sylvie McCann, Administrative Coordinator



**MINUTES
CITY TREE COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2021
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

1 CALL TO ORDER 10:34

2 ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

PRESENT

Margaret Kirkland
David Jensen
Lynda Bell
Tammi Kosack

ABSENT

Matt Meskimen
John Hillman
Lisa Finkelstein

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Zaffaroni, Liberty Landscape Supply (Panel)
Rex Lester, City Staff (Panel)
Amanda Young, Young's Tree Service (Panel) (10:43)
Nan Voit, City Staff
Steve Cash, Cash's Tree Service
Felicia Taylor, Cash's Tree Service (Panel)
Early McCall (Panel)

3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4 APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

4.1 Approval of the Minutes for the April 7, 2021 City Tree Committee.

4.2 Approval of the Minutes for the April 21, 2021 City Tree Committee.

Member Kosack asked that in the Minutes of April 21, 2021 meeting, the name of the street in paragraph 5 be changed from Cedar to Escambia.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was made by Member Kosack, seconded by Member Kirkland to approve the minutes with the noted amendment to the April 21, 2021 Minutes.

Vote upon passage of the motion was taken by ayes and nays and being all ayes, carried.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

Ms. Forehand announced that on Friday April 30th, 2021, in celebration of Arbor Day, there were 4 trees planted on N. 3rd Street behind the Port warehouses. This was an available location that Member Kosack had provided. Two (2) live oaks and two (2) Weeping Yaupon were planted that day. She also noted that the following week, six (6) Wax Myrtle would also be planted on that street to fill out the remaining gaps.

5.1 Panel Discussion - Tree Professionals

Ms. Hartmann introduced the Panel Discussion and invited the panel participants to introduce themselves and present a short background. The participants spoke in the following order:

Steve Cash from Cash's Tree Service Inc., Nan Voit, City of Fernandina Beach Director of Parks & Recreation, Mike Zaffaroni, owner of Liberty Landscaping Supply, Rex Lester, City of Fernandina Street Maintenance, Early McCall, independent arborist consultant, Felicia Taylor, Cash's Tree Service Inc., Ashley, Liberty Landscape Supply (purchasing).

Ms. Hartmann reiterated the mission of the Tree Committee and explained the goal to increase the overall tree canopy by 5% by 2024.

Mr. Zaffaroni asked when this goal was established. Ms. Forehand and Ms. Hartmann provided some information.

Amanda Young arrived at 10:43 a.m. and introduced herself and provided information on her background.

Ms. Forehand provided a timeframe for discussions and questions and provided the first question to the Panel.

What trends (if any) are being noticed for tree removal?

Ms. Young explained that one of the big issues she experienced and continues to experience about tree removal is from insurance company requiring removal of trees they deem hazardous. She gave her professional opinion about several species of trees.

Mr. McCall explained that from his experience insurance companies are not an issue. He also mentioned that he works a lot with developers and mentioned that they do need the professional help and knowledge to assist with how best to design in order to preserving trees. He also commented on certain species of trees.

Ms. Young spoke of the stress showing on trees during the next couple of years after planting. She mentioned developers should hold some responsibilities for their maintenance for a few years once the project is completed and suggested aeration of the roots and the injections of nutrients.

Mr. Cash mentioned that he would not want to eliminate or lose any species of trees. He also spoke of hollow trees and trees growing over the road. He encouraged structural pruning and emphasized that it should be done by a professional trained by an arborist. He also addressed the goal of growing the canopy by 5% and the state of trees currently growing their canopy now and trees that will not survive in the future.

Mr. Zaffaroni mentioned that municipalities do not allocate enough money for maintenance, pruning, management and diagnostic and that as a planting business they would advocate for this.

Ms. Bell noted that the health of trees is not assessed enough. Mr. Lester noted that on a daily basis he drives around and assesses city trees from property line to property line, sidewalk to streets, curbs, gutters, landscaping, and obstruction. Ms. Voit explained that funds are allocated for tree maintenance for downtown, the cemetery and parks budget. She noted that there are 2 urban foresters on staff and those trees are assessed.

Mr. McCall agrees that there needs to be more maintenance like fertilizing and pruning of rotten wood on a

regular scheduled maintenance.

Ms. Forehand summarized that the consensus is that funding should be made available to increase scheduled maintenance and assessment of all trees. She then presented the next question.

How can the City improve on addressing these challenges?

She laid out what has been mentioned so far such as inspection, assessment, and funding.

Mr. Zaffaroni specified that although most of his work is in Jacksonville, his involvement when planting trees and his responsibility after planting. He noted that he has 2 contracts with the City of Jacksonville, one is for maintenance and warranty of his product for 90 days and the second is one for 2 years. He explained what the expectations are within the contract and how the funding is set up. He mentioned that they generally plant 3" caliper trees.

Ms. Bell noted that over stocking is also a problem which is not allowing the tree to grow within the space allocated.

Mr. Zaffaroni stated that proper tree selection and space is very important.

Mr. McCall mentioned that after plantings are completed by developer, problems do pop up. He noted that an arborist should be part of the planning process to help with the different part of engineering for example the removing of soil which can kill the root system.

Ms. Kosack asked if any arborists are called before clearing happens.

Ms. Young spoke of the impact of the clearing process has on the root system and also mentioned the importance of contractor's or developer's representative having the professional knowledge necessary to assess those issues. In summary education and training should be required by each professional including engineers and architects.

Ms. Kirkland spoke of the impact of maximizing the square footage of homes on small lots.

Mr. Jensen asked about what incentive exist instead of punitive actions to keep trees.

Ms. Kosack asked if pier construction is preferable to foundation, trenching or stem walls, Mr. Cash answered in the affirmative.

Ms. Forehand then moved to explained that the City is looking to emphasize the replacement program for any dead, dying or hazardous removed tree on existing properties. Staff explained the process.

Mr. Zaffaroni asked about the funding of the Tree Trust Fund and the current available funds. He also asked about available species for replanting. He mentioned that from experience trees removed are not replaced at the same place but may be replanted in a different location. He also asked if the replanting included only the tree or if this included the installation cost.

Staff thanked the panel for their participation.

5.2 Preservation & Maintenance

Staff provided a handout of the LDC Chapter 4 Section 4.05.14 about Preservation & Maintenance.

5.3 Replacement & New Plantings

Ms. Forehand explained different ways to expand on the awareness of the replacement program. She briefly

DRAFT

covered the newly revised tree mitigation measures revised last year.

5.4 Introduction to Tree Canopy working document

Ms. Hartmann announced that a rough draft of the report should be presented to the members during the June 2nd, 2021 to get an update of what solutions have been discussed so far.

5.5 Next agenda topics/Website revamping

Ms. Forehand address the topics of the next meeting with Mary Hamburg, Digital Communication Specialist for the City, speaking about the revamping of the City Tree website page. She then mentioned that Jake Platt, City Senior Planner would be discussing new GIS capabilities and resources that would allow us to better track plantings and canopy assessment.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Hartmann encouraged the members to continue submitting pictures of areas for planting consideration. She also asked members to confirm what would be the best method of communication.

Member Kosack announced that there is a challenger Sugarberry tree newly certified by the State of Florida in Old Town.

7. ADJOURNMENT 11:58

Sylvie McCann, Recording Secretary

Taylor Hartmann

PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM
City of Fernandina Beach



SUBJECT:

ITEM TYPE: Future Land Use Map Amendment > 10 Acres

REQUESTED ACTION:

SYNOPSIS:

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Jacob Platt, Senior Planner

Kelly N. Gibson, AICP, Planning Director

Tammi E. Bach, City Attorney

Date: May 12, 2021

Submitted By: Taylor Hartmann, Planning Technician

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