# AGENDA
# CITY TREE COMMITTEE
**JUNE 16, 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 Regular Meeting of June 2, 2021.

**4. BOARD BUSINESS**

4.1 Distribution & discussion of Action Plan working document

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**7. THE NEXT REGULAR CITY TREE COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 30, 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

Submitted By: Sylvie McCann, Administrative Coordinator

Date: June 09, 2021

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES**
**CITY TREE COMMITTEE**
**JUNE 2, 2021**
**CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS**

**1. CALL TO ORDER 10:32**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

| | |
|---|---|
| Margaret Kirkland | John Hillman |
| Matt Meskimen | Lisa Finkelstein |
| Lynda Bell | Tammi Kosack |

**ABSENT**
David Jensen

**OTHERS PRESENT**
Daphne Forehand, Staff Liaison
Taylor Hartmann, Staff Liaison
Sylvie McCann, Recording Secretary

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

4.1 Approval of Minutes for the May 19, 2021, City Tree Committee.

**ACTION TAKEN: A motion was made by Member Kosack, seconded by Member Bell to approve the Minutes as presented.**

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

**6. BOARD BUSINESS**

6.1 Design Professionals Panel Discussion

The Panel of Design Professionals introduced themselves. They were, Mike Manzie Surveyor, Benjamin Morrison, Architect/Cotner & Associates, Nick Gillette, Engineer/Gillette & Associates, Jose Miranda, Architect/Miranda Architect.

A first question was presented to the panel members: How often do you encounter a situation where a tree could be saved if provided with setback requirement flexibility.?

Mr. Miranda spoke of setback and footprint restriction and added that trees were only one small part of their work. He commented that they try to design around trees and noted that bigger lots provide more flexibility.

Mr. Gillette added that flexibility on setbacks would be helpful. Mr. Morrison noted that it would be a worthwhile policy to look into even if it doesn't happen that often. He added that modified setbacks requirements impact neighbors too and this would have to be taken into consideration before the exception or flexibility could be enacted. He also opined that 10% setback should not be reduced.

Mr. Miranda commented on inconsistencies of the City LDC which in turn create variance requests. He suggested the Administrative Review to be added to correct modify setbacks in order to preserve trees.

Member Bell asked the panel members if they are seeing more owners request to maximize their footprint.

Mr. Gillette noted that from his experience footprints tend to grow horizontally instead of vertically because of the demographics.

Ms. Hartmann spoke of the existing Administrative Review and Context Sensitive Review process.

Member Kosack asked about the flexibility on setbacks could be taken advantage of. She also brought up how the determination is being done. She added that it could be according to situation, species of tree, and that the decision should be made according to some specific elements.

Mr. Manzie added that the decision must be taken before development is done and before the development review so any development can then be created around trees.

A discussion about setback reduction and increase in height ensued and pros and cons were brought up. Member Hillman suggested that the solution may be legitimate mitigation with sizable tree re-planting. He expanded by stating that this is value added to the property.

Mr. Gillette spoke of changing the layout of developments where cluster of houses could be built in a non-treed area while keeping the treed area for other purposes where saving trees would be more feasible.

Member Kirkland mentioned that, when feasible, she would like to see the existing ecology being considered before the design is defined and built.

Mr. Miranda spoke of consequences in looking at one problem and not looking at the repercussions. They are at the front end are seeing how striking a balance is important with following all LDC requirements such as setback, trees, stormwater, etc. Mr. Gillette added the utility conflicts.

Mr. Manzie spoke of the role of the arborist and the accuracy of the tree survey.

Ms. Forehand asked if the notice of Fernandina Beach being a tree city is stressed enough by the panel.

Mr. Morrisson mentioned that most of his clients do not look to remove tree unnecessarily depending on the location and the fact of the properties being residential vs. commercial.

Mr. Hillman added that an early start with the arborist to make a plan before construction could help.

Ms. Kosack mentioned that the code should be more robust.

Mr. Morrison explained that the arborist should be part and present at TRC review.

Mr. Miranda suggested that the City should also reach out to the Board of Realtor. They are the first contact to buyers and need to be part of the conversation.

Mr. Hillman emphasize on education and suggested creating some kind of certification.

Member Kirkland asked the panel if a creation of an info card would help and be distributed.

Mr. Gillette spoke of punitiveness. He also suggested incentives for redevelopment to double canopy by eliminating or reducing permit fee and incentive for redevelopment over new virgin properties.

Ms. Hartman asked the panel a second questions: Are you noticing other trends regarding design and building?

Mr. Miranda spoke of the change with the pandemic, especially the move from transplant since now people can work from anywhere. He also noted that as far as construction trends, the cost of the material will impact who can afford to live on this island. He expressed concern that the island could become too exclusive.

Mr. Morrison added most don't realize how many times design professionals reject or refuse a client's demand either because it isn't to code, or it doesn't feel good.

Mr. Gillette stated that there are a lot of second homeowners buying entry level homes.

Mr. Morrison did mention that our current tree policy is the strongest it's been, and we have not been appreciating this current policy. The result of this recent updated policy may not show results right away but only seen in a few years.

Member Meskimen mentioned that a trend is that back yards are being developed either with pools, pool houses.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Hartmann thanked the panelists and encouraged them to continue providing insight to Staff.
She also addressed members and stated that the working document will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Ms. Bell asked about the Tree City Designation and its guidelines.

Member Kirkland mentioned that there is a need to inform the residents about the culture of North Florida.
Member Hillman said the developer also need to make this part of their signature product and inform their clients.

Member Hillman asked about the goal of 167 acres being planted and the growth of the already existing canopy.

Ms. Forehand mentioned that the existing data of tree planted to date will be entered into a newly created GIS layer so to assess the canopy coverage projection.

**8. ADJOURNMENT 12:02**

_____ _____

**Sylvie McCann, Recording Secretary** **Taylor Hartmann, Staff Liaison**

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM**
*City of Fernandina Beach*

SUBJECT:

ITEM TYPE: Comprehensive Plan Amendment

REQUESTED ACTION:

SYNOPSIS:

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Jacob Platt, Senior Planner
Kelly N. Gibson, AICP, Planning Director
Tammi E. Bach, City Attorney

Date: June 09, 2021

Submitted By: Taylor Hartmann, Planning Technician