

The City of Lake Worth Tree Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2023

Call to order: 6:06

Members Present: D. Kerner, P. Hallowell, G. Powell, D. Brown, B. Jungles

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: David McGrew, City Horticulturist/Board Advisor

Elected Officials Present: Vice Mayor Christopher McVoy

Agenda additions, deletions, reordering:

Add Institute for Regional Conservation discussion as part of old business item b. Tree Planting in Bryant Park update.

Table New business items a and b to the January 11, 2024, regular meeting.

Add discussion on Florida Statute 163.045 – Tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property to old business
Motion made by D. Brown to approve the amended agenda; seconded by G. Powell

Yays: 5 Nays: 0

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the November 9, 2023, meeting was presented for adoption. Motion made by G. Powell to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by B. Jungles

Yays: 5 Nays: 0

The process for reporting tree related violations was discussed. R. Stowe mentioned improper pruning at the corner of 3rd Ave north and North L Street; the City Horticulturist responded that the property would be cited.

Reports: D. Kerner reported that she was informed that trees were improperly pruned on South Dixie Highway and asked if there was a process where trees and/or property could be “Red Tagged” to inform the public about the violation. The City Horticulturist responded that there is not a current process to “Red Tag” trees, and he showed the board what the “Red Tag” also known as a “Stop Work Order” that addresses building code violations such as work without permits. The Horticulturist also informed the board that he raised that question with the Department director who supported posting the property to inform the public about the violation but there are numerous legal issues that would need to be addressed. The board further discussed reporting tree related violations.

New Business: tabled to the January 11, 2023, regular meeting

- A. 2024 Arbor Day observance discussion and planting

- B. Tree and landscape Board Goals and objectives for 2024

Old Business:

- A. Tree City USA application update – The Horticulturist informed the board that the 2023 Tree City USA application was approved by the Arbor Day Foundation. The board then discussed the city making an announcement of the recertification once the recognition materials are received.

- B. Neighbors Encouraging Shade Trees (NEST) update-Tree Planting in Bryant Park.
Former Tree Board Chairperson R. Stowe told the board about his experience with the Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC) and some of their projects such as floristic assessments. The board then briefly discussed the Community Greening presentation to the commission and the procurement process. B. Jungles spoke about IRC and supported IRC being involved in the project. The Horticulturist shared a memo that was sent to the Interim City Manager outlining items that need to be considered and/or addressed to move the project forward such as

consulting with naturalist to ensure proper plant selection. Vice-Mayor McVoy spoke about his experiences with IRC and the high quality of their website and floristic inventories. The board briefly discussed habitat creation. The Vice-Mayor then encouraged that the city and board work with IRC, consult with PBSO on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals and community stakeholders on tree selection and placement. The board then discussed working with IRC to develop a planting plan. Former board member R. Stowe offered to reach out to IRC to learn what services they offer. The board further discussed the procurement process. The board discussed planting using unskilled volunteers and qualified landscape contractors. B. Jungles spoke about his experience with planting with volunteers and the increased use on native plants in south Florida. The advisor reported that it is getting harder to procure native plants from local nurseries. The board then discussed the NEST request, habitat creation and CEPTED. B. Jungles spoke about the native plantings at the Hypoluxo town hall. The board discussed using NEST volunteers to assist with the plantings, planting using City staff members and the procurement process. The advisor reported that the purchasing process has not been identified. It will either be an invitation for bid (IFB), request for proposals (RFP) or request for qualifications (RFQ). D. Kerner asked if the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan would affect the tree planting. The advisor responded that the master plan should not affect the planning because the plantings will take place in areas that will not impact the open areas of the park. The board asked about the master plan. The advisor told the board what he knew about the process and that this type of planning is very common.

C. Beach landscape inspection and renovation update

The board asked about the beach landscape maintenance. The advisor reported that he would meet with Grounds maintenance staff to implement the board's recommendations.

Adjourned 8:01