



**MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH
TREE AND LANDSCAPE BOARD REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 -- 6:04 PM**

ROLL CALL AND RECORDING OF ABSENCES- Present were: Donna Kerner, Ginny Powell, Priscilla Hallowell, Diane Brown.

Also present: Annie Greening, Principal Planner; Scott Rodriguez, Asst. Director for Planning & Preservation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/REORDERING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – No additions, deletions or re-ordering.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT) Monica Bilotti- Questions how the trees in Bryant Park were chosen; inquires as to whether the Board reviewed the downtown trees selection. The trees are not proven in Palm Beach County from what she heard, suggests the Japanese Blueberry may or may not be an invasive species. Replacing oaks with non-native. Code states continue to use Native species as possible, and now it seems the oaks will not be used. Unsure if the Board selected those trees, whether the city is forcing the purchase and where the funds are coming from and the cost; and if a horticulturist is overseeing the selection. Requests the items be brought to the agenda.

REPORTS: ADVISOR, CHAIR, COMMITTEE(S), AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Staff mentions the previous candidate for Landscape Planner did not work out. Chen Moore & Associates will be providing consultants in the interim.

FAQ's related to Code were never completed, it was more complex, more edits needed than expected; would like to sit with staff later in the summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Sustainable Yard Series:
 - a. Post-event discussion/recap

Board: A well-attended event with 26 of the 39 who signed up in attendance. The Library was an excellent venue and the speaker was great. Would like to hold another event, which requires at least a one-month notice. Perhaps November would be the best month for a new presentation. Members discussed new topics for a future presentation.

B. Let's Plant Trees Brochure:

- a. Final brochure content- Changes/additions to links, tables. Please let staff know within the week of any edits/typos. **Board:** Will this be a pdf? Will there be a print copy? **Staff:** A digitized copy will be produced and perhaps the lowest print number may be 250.

C. Discussion of tree designations and potential public outreach/education

- a. Update from Board members about potential designation criteria

Staff: Tasked with speaking to the City attorney about owner consent for tree designation. Currently there is no criteria within Code to justify a designation for a Champion tree. Board would look for criteria for the Specimen tree. Owner consent would be important if the goal is protection of a tree on private property rather than honorific designation. Concerns existed regarding the Code prohibition of trimming of branches. A Board suggestion that staff evaluate any specimen trees that may or may not require trimming; consideration of the language; designation to show on reports. **Board:** It must be to the homeowner advantage to help maintain the tree. Discussion ensued regarding what other cities do with regard to designation of specimen trees on private property. The average homeowner would not allow designation of a tree if nothing is provided in exchange. **Board:** How does Historic Preservation designation of homes exist? **Staff:** New structural designations are more difficult now. Most previously designated properties occurred between 1998 and 2002 and don't require permissions/consent. Brief discussion of Open Space and Recreation Comp Plan Element- tree canopy survey and use of Bryant Park. The M Street mango tree- the structure was approved for demolition.

A designated tree requires City Commission to be removed. Tree removal in general requires a permit and fines are incurred for abused (hat-racked) and/or removed without permit.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: 6:40 pm