

The City of Lake Worth Tree Board
Regular Meeting Minutes-Rescheduled from September 14, 2023
September 21, 2023

Call to order: 6:08

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

Members Absent: P. Hallowell

Staff Present: David McGrew, City Horticulturist/Board Advisor

Agenda additions, deletions, reordering: Reorder new business item e to new business item b. Add beach landscape report as new business item f.

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the June 8, 2023, July 13, 2023, and August 10, 2023, were presented for adoption. Motion made by G. Powell to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by D. Brown.

Yays: 4 Nays: 0

Reports: G. Powell informed the board that she inspected the beach landscape on September 20, 2023, and forwarded her report to the City Horticulturalist D. McGrew. The Board then discussed the beach plantings and the maintenance issues. G. Powell and the horticulturist will meet at the beach to review the report. The horticulturist will then send his maintenance recommendations to Public Works for implementation.

New Business:

A. New Board member introductions and orientation

New board member Benjamin Jungles introduced himself to the board and informed the board that his specialties are native plants and habitat restoration of private properties.

B. Bryant Park tree planting-request from Neighbors Encouraging Shade Trees (NEST)

Resident Tracy Rosof-Peterson informed the board how the NEST was formed to support Rosann Malakates who has been advocating for more shade trees in Bryant Park for several years. Tracy then presented the letter that was sent to the board and requested \$25,000 dollars from the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund be used to plant mature native shade trees within Bryant Park by the end of 2023.

Gail Silverblatt informed the board that the idea to ask the Tree and Landscape Board came from the Director of Community Sustainability, William Waters. Gail asked the Mayor Betty Resch at the second budget meeting if she would ask where the funds could come from; Mayor Resch said that she would ask Mr. Waters who reportedly responded that there are monies in the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund that could be used to plant trees. Three suggested locations for the Bryant Park tree planting are along the sidewalk adjacent to the seawall. The north end of the park on the west side of the seating area, and in and around the playground at the south end of the park. Gail also reported that the city may match the Tree Canopy Restoration fund and that there may be funds available from the ARPA funds. Another request is to use to use \$500,00 in ARPA funds to plant trees city wide such as the Dixie Highway medians, the swales in College Park, and around all playground's city wide.

The advisor D. McGrew reported that there is just over \$30,000 in the Tree canopy Restoration Fund with some further funds expected to come in as projects come to completion and told the board about grants that are available when the application portals open sometime in October or November of 2023. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has a grant program that should open soon which has the following categories tree planting on public lands, tree canopy assessment, urban forest management planning

and information. There is also a federal Urban and Community Forestry- Plantings, Preservation, and Invasive Control (UCF-PPIC) grant which is funded through the Bipartisan Inflation Reduction which has the following categories remove and replace invasive, tree plantings in disadvantaged communities. There was then a discussion on grants.

G. Powell asked the process for recommending the expenditure to the commission. The advisor reported that he did not know what the process was, but he would find out.

The advisor recommended that the city hold off on the Bryant Park planting to maximize the funds by applying for a matching grant which would double the funds available to plant trees.

A motion was made by G. Powell and seconded by D. Brown to prepare a memo to recommend that \$25,000 from the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund be allocated to fund the NEST request for trees in Bryant Park and ask the City Commission to match the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund Monies with an additional \$25,000 from other city funds.

Yays: 4 Nays: 0

C. Updated Tree and landscape Board ordinance discussion

The advisor D. McGrew went over the Tree and Landscape Board updated ordinance; specifically, section 2-82 (c). which is to provide recommendations to the city commission on expenditures from the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund.

D. Florida tree removal law

The advisor distributed copies of Florida statute 163.045 which is an act relating to private property rights to prune, trim, remove and remove hazardous trees and gave the board an overview of the statute which states that a local government may not require a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on residential property if the tree(s) have been found to be hazardous by an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist or landscape Architect. The board then discussed the statute, and the advisor informed the board of his experiences with the statute and hazardous tree removals.

E. Grant Opportunities

The board briefly discussed grant opportunities and the advisor informed the board about upcoming grant opportunities.

Old Business:

A. Landscape webpage update

The advisor reported that the city webpage updates are complete and all the changes that the board requested were implemented.

B. Tree Board Community outreach-Brochure update

The board discussed the brochure, and the advisor informed the board that a budget amendment is required to use the Tree Canopy Restoration Fund for the design and limited printing of the brochure.

C. Arbor Day Observance-Tree planting

The advisor reported that the Arbor Day Observance is scheduled to be held at 10:00 AM on September 30, 2023, at the City Hall Annex. The then board discussed the tree planting, and the advisor informed the board that the trees were paid for, the trees will be picked up the week of the tree planting and the holes will be pre-dug

on the Friday before the event. The advisor then informed the board that the Tree City USA recertification was in progress and would be completed once the advisor meets with Public Works staff to get the required budget numbers for the application.

D. Discuss and plan a targeted tree giveaway-tabled to future meeting

Adjourned: 8:10 PM