



Street Tree Advisory Committee
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Financial Services Conference Room

Member Attendees:

Gina Burrell
Mark Jackoby
Gail Wisler
Ann Derby

Absent:

Greg Dunn
Fremont Latimer
Sandy Lenney

City Staff

April Owen, Assistant City Attorney
Mark Hartley, Streets & Grounds Manager
J.B. Miller, Fish Island Land Management Coordinator
Stephen Slaughter, Utilities & Public Works Director
Jessica Beach, Utilities & Public Works Deputy Director
Wade Giddens, Utilities & Public Works Deputy Director
Glabra Skipp, Utilities & Public Works Deputy Director
Becky Howell, Utilities & Public Works Administrative Coordinator

1. **Quorum:**
Roll was taken, and quorum was established.
2. **Public Comment:**
No public comment
3. **Minutes:**
Minutes from the last meeting held on November 16, 2024, were reviewed by the Committee. A motion was made by Gina Burrell to approve the minutes as written; Ann Derby seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4. **Arbor Day Slide Show**

Glabra Skipp began the meeting with a slide show of pictures from this year's 2025 Arbor Day Event, held in the Plaza de La Constucion. Gina Commented this was the best year yet. Members were very impressed with the positive feedback from the Public. Gina commented kids being able to participate makes Parents happy. JB Miller stated he really liked the poet.

5. **Tree City USA and Growth Awards – COSA Grounds Division Update:**

Mark Hartley is actively working to gather reporting information for both Tree City USA and Growth Awards. Submissions are due September and October.

6. **Arbor Day 2025 discussion:**

Mark Hartley stated this is the time to start thinking about location and what to plant. Gina asked about a list of locations we have not done in a while. Mark suggested maybe areas of future projects. Stephen suggested maybe even looking 3 years out at areas scheduled to have projects like the Bayfront. Ann recommended the Park at US1 and King Street as possible locations. JB Miller mentioned May St and Hospital Creek as a good spot for many species of trees.

7. **Tree Canopy Program:**

The Tree Canopy Program opened June 1st, 2024, and closed with 45 applicants. Of the 45 applicants 16 were outside City Limits, leaving 29 living within City Limits. The total being 24 trees after 5 applicants withdrew or did not qualify. JB and Mark did site assessments on all properties. Each Resident turned in a signed agreement. Once agreements were received, the planting of the 24 trees began. JB Miller stated they are anticipating a larger number of applicants this year and returning Residents. Glabra stated the Program will open again this June to the first 45 applicants. It was reported from 2022-2025 a total of 167 trees were planted in COSA neighborhoods and 15 species.

8. **Fish Island Update:**

JB Miller reports the dedication for the City's 2.5 acres went very well with 85 people attending. Fish Island completed an Annual Culture Resource Audit along with the Acoustic Surveys last week. JB explained the invasive treatment process and was excited to have a company from Gainesville starting applications. They will be using herbicides to treat the invasive plants. Each species requires a different mixture and application process. Some species may include Japanese climbing fern, Brazilian pepper, camphor, and sword fern. When the application is done you will see a lot of brown. JB then began discussing park attendance. The number of visitors is weather driven. On Saturday mornings you will not find an open parking spot we see more walk ins during the week explained JB.

9. **Citizen Yard Of the Year:**

Gina presented the idea of restarting the Beatification Subcommittee. The committee would assist the Community with Beatification of gardens and yards. The last time

this committee was active was in 2020, said Ms. Burrell. One of the obstacles was they were limited on locations. This time they would like to be City wide instead of specific neighborhoods. Gina also presented the idea of signs being reinstituted for the yards selected. Ms. Burrell stated she has two candidates who are not members of the STAC committee she would like to recommend. Stephen stated this is a great idea maybe choose 3 different categories for the yards to qualify. JB suggested having Liz, our Sustainability Specialist, investigate other programs in Florida. Stephen stated we can discuss what is out there and institute our own Yard of the Year. Stephen also suggested maybe 2 categories, and nice signs make them special. Gina will work on a nomination form or application and bring it to the next meeting. Glabra offered to help Gina with the forms anytime.

10. New Items:

- a) JB miller talked about how nice the Audubon Garden located near our Visitor Information Center is during winter. They have clocked 450 volunteer hours. March garden tours have been well attended stated JB.
- b) Gail stated she is still concerned about the removal of the 100-year-old oaks on M L King Ave. Gail stated she sent information about the Welaka tree ordinance to Reuben. Mark Jacoby inquired about our newspaper posting a notice before tree removals. Stephen replied permits are required but I am not sure about public notice. Stephen said he will look into this question and present it with an answer at the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, will be the next meeting at 2:30pm.

12. Adjournment:

Gina Burrell adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Notices: In accordance with Florida Statute 286.0105: If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Street Tree Advisory Committee with respect to any matter considered at this scheduled meeting or hearing, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (904) 825-1007; 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

“Please note that one or more members of the City Commission or its appointed boards or committees may attend this meeting and participate, however, they may not engage in a discussion or debate amongst themselves on any issue that will likely come before their respective elected or appointed body.”