

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Street Tree Advisory Committee Meeting
July 18, 2007

The Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) met in formal session at 3:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 18, 2007 in the Alcazar Conference Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frederick Halback, and the following were present:

1. ROLL CALL

Frederick Halback, Chairman
Gina Burrell
Chuck Lippi
Gordon Wilson
Robin Nadeau

Absent: Greg Dunn
Sally Ann Freeman
Gordon Wilson

Staff Present: Mark Knight, Director, Planning and Building
Susan Goins, Recording Secretary
Randy Layfield, City Parks Department

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
(April 18, 2007 – Regular Meeting)

Mr. Halback responded to a letter from Sally Ann Freeman, asking for a clarification of the minutes of April 18, 2007. According to the letter Ms. Freeman said she had asked Mr. Halback about the number of Landscape Architects there were in St. John's County. She believed his response was "one, himself".

Mr. Halback stated that he did not recall that answer but, if he had, it was misleading because he understood there were a small number of them.

MOTION

There was no motion to approve the minutes.

3. Review of Tree and Landscape Ordinance.

Mr. Halback commended Mr. Lippi for his efforts toward rewriting the ordinance with suggested changes for tree protection.

Mr. Halback reported that St. Johns County had a good landscape code and Robin Nadeau had participated the writing of it. It contained tree protection and replacement requirements that were in line with suggestions of Mr. Lippi. He suggested using that ordinance as a template so that the City's ordinance would be consistent with the County's.

Mr. Halback said the County made changes that the committee was considering, such as not giving more credit for flowering trees than non-flowering trees, which tended to

encourage landscapers to plant Crape Myrtles instead of Live Oaks.

The consensus was that adopting some of the St. Johns County code would be a positive move as it would be consistent across jurisdictions.

Mr. Lippi conveyed some of his concerns as follows:

- All trees did not have equal value
- Some trees should not have been designated for protection
- Tree protection during construction phases included installing barriers extending one foot for each inch of diameter
- No construction should take place within the drip line of the tree
- If that could not be accomplished, arborists should be used to monitor protection consistent with the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) to protect roots

Mr. Knight warned that developers would remove trees if the guidelines made it too difficult for them to save trees during development. He suggested requiring an arborist on site during construction in the root place to determine the extent of root cutting.

The committee continued discussion of suggested changes to the Tree Ordinance including the following subjects:

- The importance of irrigation of existing trees during construction
- Plans should include the method that would be used to insure proper irrigation
- The prohibiting of Cyprus mulch

- Requirement of six inches of organic mulch (with the exception of Cyprus)
- Requiring a Florida registered Landscape Architect or Certified Arborist for work within a root plate
- Restricting irrigation pipes within the drip line
- Proper methods of irrigation
- Penalties for tree damage or unlawful removal
- Replacement requirements for trees removed for development
- Requiring a minimum tree planting for development on parcels with no existing trees
- Incentives for planting large trees
- Standards for transplanting and pruning
- Planting and maintenance in a right of way
- Encouraging the limiting of grass landscaping or restricting the percentage of sod on a parcel

Mr. Knight advised the committee that the maximum fine that could be levied by the Code Enforcement Board was \$5,000.

Mr. Halback said he wanted to study the City's existing table for tree replacement for discussion at the next meeting,

Mr. Knight said the final the draft would be prepared in code format for adoption and the existing code could be repealed.

Ms. Burrell asked about the status of the San Marco corridor.

Mr. Halback said that group was supposed to contact him with their plans but he had not heard from them. He suggested the idea

of making that a student project with the University of Florida.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Mr Lippi moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nadeau and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.