

Task Force on Urban Tree Planting Best Practices

Minutes

Tuesday February 19th, 2025, – 10:00am

Via Zoom Platform & In Person

[Recording of Meeting can be obtained by sending request to Joe Rainey JRainey@coj.net]

Commissioners:

Nina Sickler, Director of Public Works
Susan Fraser, Chair (Council Appointee; 2022-0063-A)
William Burke (Mayor Appointee; 2023-0695-A)

Non-Member attendees:

Jeff Lucovsky, PDDS
Jonathan Johnston, Parks
Guy Parola, DIA
Nancy Powell, Scenic Jax
Lisa Grubba, Greenscape
Joe Anderson JEA
Valerie Feinberg, Fuse Fellow, UFMP

Advisors:

Jonathan Colburn – Urban Forestry Manager
Justin Gearhart – City Arborist
Shannon MacGillis – Office of General Counsel

Staff: Joe Rainey – Executive Assistant Mowing and Landscape

1. Call to Order

Conducted by Chair

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

Conducted by Chair

Commissioners present:

Susan Fraser – Chair
Nina Sickler
William Burke

Quorum present (4, in person): Yes

3. Call for Public Speakers (online & card): Speakers request to defer to respond within context of action items.

Action Items:

4. Submittal of speaker cards

5. Prior Meeting Minutes.

Issue: The minutes from January 27, 2025, APPROVED

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: William Burke

Vote: November minutes approved, unanimous.

Presentations:

6. Existing Standards Review presentations

a. ANSI A300 - Susan Fraser (see Item 6a, pgs. 4-6 of Agenda) Overview of tree care standards based on ANSI recommendations provided in support document.

b. JEA Underground Utilities - Joe Anderson (see Item 6b, pgs. 7-8 of Agenda) Discussion of installation and development of tree projects in urban locals. Focus on the complications and dangers utilities may contain when planning and maintaining.

c. Minimum Planting Area Detail - Susan Fraser (see Item 6c, pgs. 8-9 of supplement) Documents provided day of meeting to be included in supplemental documents. Brief detail of documents and relation to Urban article.

d. Silva Cell Details - JTA Busway on Park Street - Anna Walling (see Item 6d, pgs. 10-24 of Agenda) Overview of drafts and documents for presentation on structural soils, silva cells and their applications in relation to tree planting projects. Discussion was included in presentation.

e. Vertical Constraints - Jonathan Colburn

Issue: (see Item 6e, pgs. 25-27 of Agenda)

Overview with discussion of vertical constraints related to tree selection, location, obstructions, limitations and maintenance. Details found on support documents.

f. Existing Tree Fund Projects' Irrigation Approach - Jonathan Colburn (see Item 6f, pgs. 28-29 of Agenda)

Review of current contracts for tree planting regarding tree watering. Types of irrigation, applications and follow-through after warranty ends.

Discussion: Fraser: Question about volume vs frequency, to be found in further contract documents not provided.

7. Downtown Investment Authority

a. Design Guidebook - Guy Parola

DIA has previously contracted consultants to study what the taskforce is exploring. The design guidebook describes the aesthetic applications of trees and plant installs related to how they work with surrounding banners and other design aspects of downtown. DIA is looking to gain insight into how to merge the aesthetics with best practice plant selection, install and maintenance technics.

b. Examples of Utility Conflicts Downtown - Guy Parola

DIA is finding unmarked or unmapped utilities when implementing designs, they are seeking standards or options that will help alleviate utility constraints or resolve when unexpected utilities are found on ROWs. **Fraser:** How about Raised Planters?

8. The Good, Bad and Ugly

9. Development of Constrained Planting Environment Standards

a. Overview "Bringing Order to the Technical Dysfunction within the Urban

Forest", Journal of Arboriculture Volume 18, issue 2, March 1992

Read through of article and their relation to and application to City of Jacksonville tree planting solutions.

b. Application of Approach and Matrix to Jacksonville

i. Matrix

ii. Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization

iii. Outline of Needed Specifications and Details

iv. Application Requirements Level 2 and 3 Check

Fraser: How-to for use of matrix with detailed examples.

Overview of specific problems relevant to current Jacksonville processes.

10. Expand Approved Tree Planting List to Include:

- i. Planting Zone
- ii. Mature Height and Spread
- iii. Root Characteristics (invasive?)
- iv. Suitability as a street tree adjacent to pedestrians
- v. Suitability as street tree without pedestrian adjacency
- vi. Maintenance Score
- vii. Wind Resistance
- viii. Water requirements minimum and Optimum
- ix. soil volume required
- x. Lifespan
- xi. Crown shape

11. Meeting Dates for March - May 2025

March 20th 11am -2pm

April 17th 11am -2pm

May 14th 11am -2pm

ADJOURNMENT

END OF MEETING 3:32PM

APPROVED