

Task Force on Urban Tree Planting Best Practices

Minutes

Thursday March 20th, 2025, - 11:00am-2:00pm

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)

Non-Member attendees:

Jeff Lucovsky, PDDS

Jonathan Johnston, Parks

Guy Parola, DIA

Nancy Powell, Scenic Jax

Lisa Grubba, Greenscape

Joe Anderson JEA

Paul Davis, Planning

Valerie Feinberg, Fuse Fellow, UFMP

Tracy Arpen, Greenscape

Advisors:

Justin Gearhart - City Arborist

Carla Lopera - 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 - Director of Public Works

Quorum present (2, in person): No

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. March Minutes Vote Deferred to next meeting; Quorum not present

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.

In-Depth open format discussion: Presentations:

Fraser: Discussion of new application, How-to for use of matrix with detailed examples. Overview of specific problems relevant to current process, standards and new forms in relation to matrix and site conditions and Jacksonville processes.

Presentation materials discussed tree planting project applications. Contributing parties from the public, JEA, DIA, etc. provided questions, Problems, insight and guidance as to real world application of developing best practices guidelines. Requests for full Taskforce meeting recording can be sent to JRainey@coj.com for detailed discussion.

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.

State Street and DIA tree wells: Discussion of FDOT's interest in having the tree wells planted on state street. Acknowledgement of limitations on State Street and other DIA tree wells conclude that Live Oaks are not a viable solution and expectations of shorter duration tree with remove and replace plan may be best practice for these locations. Discourse regarding shade requirement from landowners in how to plant to fit this parameter. Easements suggested were not seen to be a viable option per DIA.

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

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

April 28th 11am -2pm

May 14th 11am -2pm

ADJOURNMENT

END OF MEETING 1:32PM

APPROVED