

Task Force on Urban Tree Planting Best Practices

Minutes

Monday May 21, 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)
William Burke, Tree Commission Member

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
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 - Director of Public Works
William Burke - Tree Commission Member

Quorum present (3, in person): Yes

3. Call for Public Speakers (online & card): Chris Kelcourse of Sunshine Compost: Offering resources of local companies for soil resources. Provided documentation of their products specs and a comparison to the city's current vendors product. **Burke:** relays qualifications and of soil mix would be a conversation for later. **Kelcourse:** She recommends STA certification of US compost council for vendors.

Action Items:

4. Submittal of speaker cards

5. Issue: The minutes from February 20, 2025, APPROVED

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: William Burke

Second: Nina Sickler

Vote: April 28, 2025 minutes approved, unanimous.

7. Overview of Approach- 2025 Updates to Mitigation by Degree of Urbanization

i. Review of updated James Urban approach (2025) from James Urban (1992). Detail conclusions so far and discussion of what to do moving forward. Short term (20-25 years) plantings may be a solution to downtown tree projects with limitations vs no trees being planted due to constraints. How those smaller short term plantings definitions may be clarified is of concern. Further discussion is needed to best qualify the report as expanding issues are uncovered through the taskforce process. It is determined an extension of the taskforce is required.

ADJOURNMENT

END OF MEETING 1:27PM

APPROVED