

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting Of The Windermere Tree Board February 1, 2010

Mission Statement: Increase community awareness of our Urban Forest, provide education regarding the benefits of trees and a commitment to protect, preserve and proliferate our community's Urban Forest.

- **Call To Order**

The regular public meeting of the Windermere Tree Board was called to order at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2010, by Theresa Schretzmann-Myers, in the Windermere Community Room, 118 W. Fifth Avenue, Windermere, FL 34786.

- **Attendance**

Members present at the meeting were: Theresa Schretzmann-Myers, Joan Foglia, Mary Bissen, Pat Coleman, Richard Gonzalez, Jim O'Brien.

- **Announcements**

Joan Foglia announced that Jim O'Brien had submitted his application for membership on the Windermere Tree Board.

- **Minutes Approval**

January minutes were approved pending corrections and were filed electronically to cbernier@town.windermere.fl.us, aclick@town.windermere.fl.us, awallenhurst@town.windermere.fl.us, dburkhalter@town.windermere.fl.us.

Windermere's 6th Annual "Treebute 2010"

Treasurer Joan Foglia announced that the annual "Treebute 2010" scheduled on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 10a.m.-4:00 p.m. netted a profit of approximately \$900.00 which goes into the Tree Board town account. Still awaiting check from Butler Bay/Crescent Reserve HOA for purchase of 43 Arbor Day Trees. We had a good turn-out for the Treebute and Arbor Day Festival and vendors, artists, businesses, etc...did a good job of representing their products. Approximately 250 trees were given away or sold. Tree Climb and Silent Auction also contributed funds to this event. Mid-Life Crisis band received compliments for their playing. Tree Board had to replace a borrowed tent from event fund profits which was damaged by volunteers. Suggestions for improvement for next year's event: Have a one hour break for the arborists to eat lunch who manned the Kids and Adult Tree Climb. They did not get an official lunch break this year and requested we put that into the schedule next year. Also, make sure that all food vending, including sandwiches for the Arborist is handled by OARS food vendors.

Crepe Myrtle Pruning and Town Tree Pruning - Thursday, January 14, 2010, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Crepe Myrtle Pruning and Town Tree Pruning will begin. Windermere Tree Board and volunteers completed pruning and some mulching of Town's young crepe myrtles along Maguire Road from Park Avenue to the Town Square. Approximately 25 tree board and arborist volunteers did the pruning and mulching. This project was for the benefit and maintenance of the Town's trees and is credited toward Windermere's Tree USA recertification and Growth Award for 2010. Eric Angstrom from Arbor Vision lead the Crepe Myrtle pruning.

TCC Tree Training for Firefighters, EMT's, Emergency First Responder, Arborists - Friday, January 15, 2010, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Windermere Tree Board facilitated this event by providing training trees, indoor and outdoor classrooms and a town hall for luncheon. TCC Training Team and North American Training Solutions provided a Tree Training seminar for First Responders, Fire Fighters and Arborists in Town Square taught proper safety extraction and removal for tree electrocution emergencies. TCC and North American Training Solutions personnel who teach the training session are ISA certified and highly qualified. Aerial Rescue personnel from Orange, Lake and other county Fire Departments attended, along with paramedics and other tree personnel from many states. An aerial climbing, tree safety and rescue seminar was be taught. Fire departments showed up from all over the state, including rescue squads from Jacksonville and

Annual Arbor Day Ceremony – took place on Friday, January 15, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. and was sponsored by Windermere Garden Club. It went well and we had an excellent turn-out. The Arbor Day ceremony commenced with Windermere Police Color Guard presenting flags for Pledge of Allegiance and Union Church Preschool kids singing songs. Ceremonies took place on the basketball courts. A Florida Dogwood (*Cornus Floridas*) was secured by Tree Board and paid for by Windermere Garden Club and planted near the Windermere Community Building. Major Gary Bruhn addressed Windermere Garden Club and attendees and made announcement about upcoming Treebute.

Old Business

The Tree Board continues to work on plans and recommendations for multiple income streams and sustainable fundraising so they are not solely dependent on Town Funds for Federal matching grants for the U.S. Government, Division of Forestry Grants.

“Cycle for the Trees” -

This event is scheduled for March 20, 2010, on the Vernal Equinox, when the flowering trees are in full bloom. It is planned to be an annual event co-sponsored by Town of Windermere, Tree Board and Windermere Roadies Cycling Group. Cycling will stay within Windermere town limits. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers and Kevin Dowling of the Windermere Roadies emailed graphics and deadline for getting information to the “Mere” newsletter in December for the “Cycle for the Trees” which was approved by Windermere Town Council. Mary Bissen provided final graphics for the Mere News. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers produced a current AAA map of the Town of Windermere and Kevin Dowling traced out the suggested bicycle route. Treasurer Joan Foglia prepared a preliminary budget for projected income and expenses for the event. Registrations would be required to pay an entry fee of \$20 per adult and \$10 for children that will include a T-shirt. Sponsorships will be sold for the event. Strategic water stops in front of flowering trees will offer quick tree facts and education about trees. Registration fee includes water and snacks.

Winter Garden Cycle Shop has offered to sponsor and give bicycle raffle prizes for the event. Other sponsors are most welcome. Tree Board would provide police safety support for this event at \$35/hour. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers suggested using available sites on the north side of Park Avenue as possible refreshment sites to view a beautiful tree in bloom such as a Tabebuia. Cyclists would get a quick educational tree fact. During the consideration of possible routes for the event, Kevin Dowling gave a high priority to safety and minimizing the interaction between bicycles and cars. Crossing Park Avenue at the western end of Lake Butler Blvd. is very hazardous since traffic enters the town on a curve at 45 mph. It has been the scene of several serious auto accidents with broadside hits, where both cars have been towed away. Kevin used to live near Butler Blvd. and witnessed several extremely dangerous accidents. Tree Board would absolutely have to have police coverage at the point that we cross over Park Avenue to go into the Manor on Tryon Place if we go that route and access the sidewalk on the north side of Park Avenue. Kevin Dowling suggested a safety crossing farther East on Park Avenue, away from the curve and after traffic has slowed inside the Windermere town limits.

Kevin Dowling knows of at least two good sites to view beautiful trees on Lake Butler Blvd. He reminded us that blooming trees have no respect for calendars or schedules, however. Some Tabebuias, in particular, can bloom a couple weeks earlier or later, depending on how much water they get and how warm the spring is so we must be flexible. This activity will also be included for consideration for our Tree City USA application. He will plan on meeting with Theresa-Schretzmann-Myers after the “Treebute” to plan tree info/education information rest stops.

Mary Bissen will work on Tabebuia tree logo and banner design for publicity to be hung at key points in town and at Town Hall Roundabouts. In terms of vendors, they will be just sponsors such as a bike shop and local Windermere vendors. Participants will stop at a tree that is in bloom, drink water at 4-5 stops and read or get quick tree fact and education. If anyone knows of beautiful strategic tree stops, let Tree Board members know. Tree Board will work on getting free bottles of water and get recyclable cups, and energy bars from Publix. Police coverage needs to be put in place and Theresa Schretzmann-Myers and Kevin Dowling will discuss police coverage with Windermere Police Department.

New Business

Butler Bay/Crescent Reserve HOA Arbor Tree Planting

Butler Bay HOA Volunteer Coordinator and Representative Lorraine Brugnoli asked Windermere Tree Board volunteers to give tree planting instructions and supervision of Arbor Day Trees planting scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2010. Florida Native trees will be planted on Butler Bay and Crescent Reserve berms along Park Avenue where they lost a great deal of their tree canopy during hurricanes. Tree Board Chairman Theresa Schretzmann-Myers will teach planting seminar and supervise group with Lorraine Brugnoli. Volunteers from Butler Bay and Crescent Reserve, Boy Scouts and Tree Board volunteers have volunteered for this planting of Arbor Day Trees. HOA will provide purchase of trees, tree planting labor, OozeTubes, hoses and water for keeping young trees watered in.

2010 Forest Health Improvement Initiative Grant Program

Theresa Schretzmann-Myers and Joan Foglia met with Cecelia Bernier, Craig McNeal, and Chloe Gentry-Cherry Lake Nurseries regarding application for the 2010 Forest Health Improvement Initiative Grant on January 22, 2010 and feasibility for writing this grant. Forest Health Improvement grant was announced by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in early January and is due on February 12, 2010. This grant does **not** require 50-50 matching funds from the Town of Windermere and would fund up to \$24,000 for reforestation of trees in the towns public right-of-ways. Tree Board volunteers committed to grant writing, grant accountability management and keeping OozeTubes watered around young trees for first 120 days. Richard Gonzalez suggested we talk with County Commissioner Scott Boyd about borrowing a water tanker truck for watering the trees in the event we do not get funding for watering trailer.

Theresa Schretzmann-Myers would write the grant with grant accountability budget management by Joan Foglia on the grant budget portion. It was the recommendation of the Tree Board that we pursue this grant and present the grant for approval before the Town Council at the February council meeting.

- **Next Regular Monthly Public Meeting Dates**

Next regular meeting date is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2010, at 7:15 p.m., in the Community Room.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. I hereby certify these are the minutes of the Windermere Tree Board as corrected.

THERESA SCHRETMANN-MYERS
Chairman
Windermere Tree Board

February 1, 2010
Date

:tsm