

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TREE SUB-COMMITTEE
 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007 – 3:00 PM
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

Committee Member:	Attendance	2007 Cumulative Attendance		Total
		Present	Absent	
Fred Stresau, Chair	P	1	0	1
Bunney Brenneman	P	1	0	1
Bob Cole	A	0	1	1
Caldwell Cooper	A	0	1	1
Terri Murru	P	1	0	1
Bernie Petreccia	P	1	0	1
L. Thomas Chancey	P	1	0	1
Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester	P	1	1	1

Staff:

Peter Partington, City Engineer
 Mona Laventure, Recording Secretary

The meeting was also attended by City Commissioner Christine Teel (arrived at 3:40 pm).

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Chair Stresau.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Brenneman announced that Mr. Stresau is the Tree Subcommittee Chair and Ms. Brenneman is Vice Chair, with the Subcommittee consisting of the following members: Tom Chancey, Bernie Petreccia, Bob Caine, Bob Cole, Terri Murru, and Caldwell Cooper. Ms. Brenneman stated that she had received an email from Mr. Caine announcing he was resigning from the Subcommittee, Mr. Cooper is out with a family emergency, and Mr. Cole is out of town. It was noted that although Mr. Dempsey is City staff, he is a voting member. Mr. Orshefsky is also invited to attend. A quorum was present.

III. Self-Introductions

IV. Minutes of Last Meeting – deferred.

V. Old Business

- Review and Discussion on Creation of Fort Lauderdale-Specific Tree Display

Mr. Dempsey stated he had completed a display and had photos enlarged which will be shown at the next Utility Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Brenneman gave Mr. Dempsey a list of upcoming conferences, workshops, and committee meetings where the display should be shown. In response to Mr. Chancey's question, Mr. Dempsey indicated the purpose of the specific tree display is to show right-tree right-place as well as pruning techniques. Mr. Chancey indicated he is very interested in removing trees from power lines; however, he is concerned about private trees maintained by professional arborists that contain themselves and are next to power lines, because the power company is on a three year schedule obliterating the trees and are pruning them incorrectly creating faster growth than if they were pruned correctly. He stressed his concern focuses on side pruning of ancient trees growing too fast due to this improper pruning and it needs to stop. Mr. Chancey added that somehow the trees should be marked with a ribbon or otherwise to indicate they are being maintained and should be left alone. He said Mr. Dempsey's display shows "wrong trees in the wrong place." Mr. Chancey reiterated that people are afraid of their trees being ruined due to FPL's policy to clear 15 feet from the lines out to the ground, and he has contacted the Mayor and Ms. Shatas at FPL in this regard.

Ms. Brenneman was disappointed that the display did not mention several important items and that it contained wording she believed did not provide proper guidance. Nothing is mentioned regarding Parks and Recreation, the Tree Subcommittee, or their brochure "Homeowners and Trees." She added that the City logo should be moved, with the City and the brochures better identified, and contact information for the Urban Forester included.

Chair Stresau suggested utilizing photographs of poor trimming as a visual aid to include in the display. Mr. Chancey agreed with that suggestion, adding they should also include pictures of proper pruning procedures.

Mr. Chancey indicated he would be happy to meet face-to-face with the homeowners to teach them how to take care of their own trees.

Motion made by Ms. Brenneman, that:

- 1) Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Chancey work on correcting the display to show proper ways of tree trimming; and
- 2) establish a color of a waterproof ribbon to tie around trees citywide and, in concert with Mr. Dempsey's display, the Committee go on an educational message to tell homeowners about the ribbons. [Motion not seconded or voted upon.]

Mr. Chancey reiterated the necessity of marking of the "antique" and valuable trees showing that the homeowners are maintaining them and should not be touched by FPL tree trimmers.

Chair Stresau pointed out FPL is under direction from the PSC regarding tree trimming and could become a legal issue if the homeowner does not trim their tree and a power line is knocked down. It was noted by Ms. Brenneman that the PSC had not approved FPL's request for 6-year tree trimming.

It was decided that this matter would be placed on the UAC February agenda, and an inquiry will be made to Mr. Dunckel in this regard.

Ms. Brenneman said that the City of Winter Park has taken over their own tree trimming eliminating these problems. She added that she would try to get from the PSA a copy of any regulations they have outlining line clearance. Ms. Brenneman repeated her request to decide on a color of ribbon and waterproof tag indicating that a tree has been trimmed and providing a contact person to call prior to any additional cutting.

Mr. Chancey proposed that when homeowner associations are notified of trimming in their area, the homeowners should be advised to tie a red ribbon around the trees presently being professionally maintained, which can then be removed after the crews leave the area, solving "the horticulture problem, the aesthetic problem, the money value problem, the lines clearance problem, and the safety problems."

Motion made by Mr. Chancey, seconded by Mr. Petreccia, to attach red ribbons with a waterproof tag indicating when the tree was pruned, by whom, the date pruned, and a telephone number. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Stresau stated one of their goals is to try to establish the City's position so that, as they move forward with energy municipalization, one of the responsibilities of the City, or as part of the contract negotiations with FPL, will be to respond to the challenge in adopting a more civil way to trim the trees.

- Oakland Park Blvd. Palm Trees (North Side)

Chair Stresau noted there are 12 to 15 Sable Palm or Coconut trees along Oakland Park from west of Bayview to the Intracoastal which have now grown out almost a full head. There had been prior discussion regarding moving or cutting down the trees and replacing the landscaping. He did not believe they could put Sable Palms back in the median strip, pointing out that Oakland Park is on Broward County's traffic way plan and any proposed plantings have to be submitted to their review and engineering department. Mr. Partington stated road resurfacing will be done in that area and there will be very little in the way of landscaping that could be placed back in the median strip.

- Sistrunk Substation Screening Project*

With regard to the Sistrunk substation, Chair Stresau advised that a portion of the landscaping has been completed. Mr. Partington concurred that the plan had been approved; however, there were some concerns about planting on the west side of the street.

- Other Old Business*

VI. New Business

- Election of Chair*

Ms. Brenneman nominated Mr. Stresau for Chair, seconded by Mr. Chancey, which nomination was accepted and approved by the Committee.

- Election of Vice Chair*

Ms. Brenneman nominated Mr. Petreccia for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Chancey, which nomination was accepted and approved by the Committee.

- City Tree Canopy Replenishment

Mr. Chancey mentioned the previous discussion regarding seven houses with very little landscaping in front of them, asking that the trees be dedicated at those locations. Mr. Stresau asked, unless it has to do specifically with the utility easement, why tree

* No audio available for this portion of the meeting. Minutes reconstructed from notes only.

replacement isn't being handled by the building department under the current ULDR permit application. He stated if a tree is removed from property, other than in the City right-of-way, the property owner is supposed to get a tree removal permit at which time the City advises how that tree is to be replaced or money is to be put into the Tree Preservation Fund. Mr. Stresau did not know what action the Tree Subcommittee should be taking in that regard.

Mr. Petreccia asked how trees are replaced from corridors and setbacks. It was Chair Stresau's understanding that it was Mr. Genaro's responsibility to provide direction in replacing trees.

Mr. Chancey mentioned the Tree Fund, placing trees in City parks, and the City giving away trees to enhance the tree canopy. He stated that in spite of their efforts, there has been a canopy reduction, and further suggested that trees which are "in the way" should be moved to where they would "do the people some good." Ms. Brenneman agreed the Subcommittee should deal with replenishing the tree canopy.

Chair Stresau suggested that if they say the pilot program for removing the palm trees is good (because it's a waste of money to continue to cut and trim the trees), he would take it a step further to address relocating the smaller shade trees that are in the right-of-way under power lines which will be a problem in the future.

Commissioner Teel suggested the Subcommittee send Mr. Stresau's proposal as a recommendation to the City Commission for further discussion. She added, with regard to relocating the trees to the other side of the street without power lines, the possibility that the tree may not be wanted or taken care of by the property owner.

Mr. Petreccia added that non-flood areas should have underground utilities, allowing for more tree planting. He felt the City Commission should commit the City to 50-90% underground utilities in the next 50 years. Mr. Chancey confirmed that tree roots do not wrap around and pull up power lines.

- George English Park/Fort Lauderdale-Garden Club Plantings
- Arbor Day Celebration

Mr. Dempsey reported they had not received a grant applied for; however, the Garden Club wishes to move ahead with the planting. City staff will be doing the work and may add a few trees to the project. The planting will be done at the end of February with a

dedication on Arbor Day in conjunction with a tree give-away. A school event in Commissioner Carlton's district will also be held at that time. The schedule of events was discussed.

Mr. Dempsey advised that the Garden Club was working on tree naming plaques.

It was Chair Stresau's suggestion for the tree give-away to have pictures of the trees full grown so it can be envisioned how they will look in the future. Mr. Dempsey noted that he has signs with photos of the trees and how they are expected to grow.

- Other New Business

Mr. Chancey mentioned that the Broward County School Board has picked three schools to show their pilot program encouraging tree canopy, butterfly gardens, native plants, and water conservation efforts.

Discussion returned to the City's tree canopy. Chair Stresau stated he still felt that talking about the removal of shade trees adjacent to the utility corridors is under the purview of planning and building department. However, if Commissioner Teel wants the Committee to recommend approval for expanding the palm removal program to the smaller shade trees, then it needs to be accompanied by a replacement program and they should formulate a program they believe the Commission will support to submit to the UAC for discussion.

Motion made by Ms. Brenneman, seconded by Mr. Petreccia to approve expanding the palm tree removal pilot program to now include smaller shade trees. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Good of the Committee

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Tree Subcommittee meeting will be March 1, 2007.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.