

**FINAL**  
**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**TREE SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**CITY HALL 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE**  
**FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301**  
**December 4, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.**

2008 Cumulative Attendance

<b><u>Committee Member</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Fred Stresau, Chair	P	2	0
Bunney Brenneman, Vice Chair	P	1	1
Robert Caine	A	0	2
L. Thomas Chancey	P	2	0
Dr. Magdalene Lewis	A	0	2
Bernard Petreccia	A	0	2
Debora Van Valkenburgh	A	1	1

**City Representatives**

Peter Partington, City Engineer & Staff Liaison  
Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester  
Hilda Testa, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Fred Stresau called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**II. Roll Call & Announcements**

Roll was called and attendance noted. Vice Chair Brenneman advised that resignations were received from Mr. Petreccia, Ms. Van Valkenburgh, Mr. Caine and Dr. Lewis, who is now a member of the Commission. It was believed that a quorum was present.

**III. Review Minutes of October 9, 2008 Meeting**

**Motion** by Vice Chair Brenneman, seconded by Mr. Chancey to approve the Minutes of the October 9, 2008 Meeting of the Utility Advisory Committee Tree Subcommittee. Upon roll call vote the motion was granted unanimously.

**IV. Unfinished Business**

**Review of UAC Tree Planting Display Boards**

Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester, said that he brought the display board so the members could see what they were dealing with. The Boards will display education as to "homeowners and trees," and the other as to the "pruning."

Chair Stresau advised that both Wade Jollimore and Lynn Shatas from FPL could not attend today's meeting. Mr. Dempsey stated that he had photographs that Mr. Jollimore had provided him.

Mr. Dempsey suggested that they focus on the tree "pruning" display at this time. Vice Chair Brenneman said that this display would be of immediate need because FPL is running the maintenance and line clearing out of the substations. Mr. Dempsey advised that for the pruning display, he had envisioned that a tree be photographed while it is being pruned. Vice Chair Brenneman said that she knew of a photography method whereby pictures can be taken quickly in sequence. Chair Stresau stated that in order to do this, FPL would have to be on board and a tree to be trimmed would have to be selected. Photographs could be taken of a tree that is tangled in the wires, and then a tree that has been partially pruned, and then one that is completely pruned.

Mr. Dempsey suggested another option whereby a photograph be taken of the top half of a tree that is pruned properly, and a photograph of another tree reflecting its appearance if FPL pruned it. Mr. Chancey said that the message being conveyed to the public is that if they have trees that are growing through the power lines, they can be controlled by the homeowners or professionally done and not have such a radical maintenance. Mr. Dempsey agreed and reiterated his vision of having photographs of the same tree whereby the first would show it growing through power lines, and then finally a photograph showing the end result. Chair Stresau concurred with Mr. Dempsey's suggestion.

Chair Stresau reiterated that the photographs in succession would demonstrate:

- 1) This is a tree in the wires,
- 2) This is what FPL is likely to do;
- 3) This is the result of FPL's work.
- 4) A recommended solution, rather than obtaining FPL's result.

Mr. Chancey commented that this should involve already existing trees and training people that are complaining about trees that have been cut by FPL. Chair Stresau felt the photographs could start off the same and then branch out into two different solutions.

Mr. Chancey remarked that the complaints are coming from people that are in neighborhoods where there are existing trees, and because of not being cared for properly that FPL has had to clear them, the look of which the homeowners do not like.

Chair Stresau referenced that there are black olive trees on the south side of eastbound Broward Boulevard that have been kept reasonably small. He again suggested showing through the photographs the short-term or long-term goal of the pruning.

Mr. Chancey requested that all present take a look at an example of trees where FPL came in and line cleared and the homeowners were very upset and stopped them. Mr. Chancey said that he was called to finish the trees. He referenced the Olshefsky trees where he had maintained them yearly so they were nowhere near the wires, and FPL came in and put an "L" in them. Vice Chair Brenneman suggested that might be a good location to take some photographs.

Chair Stresau said that if words are placed under the photographs, it will be easy to explain that there is an option to the trees in the power lines, if the owners have someone professional take care of them before FPL comes in and trims them.

Mr. Chancey believes that FPL's thinking is that if they are cut drastically back, that will buy them three years until they must be trimmed again. He said that in the tropic, McCormick sprouts grow seven times faster than the normal growth. In that case, only eight months went by and the trees were back in the wires. Mr. Dempsey stated that he did not want to reflect negatively on FPL, but just that there are alternatives.

Mr. Chancey said that one of Chair Stresau's neighbors that has a huge oak behind their home would not allow Asplundh on their property to clear the lines, but instead contacted Mr. Chancey. He explained that he stood there with Asplundh's arborist and supervised the cutting for two hours and the job was accomplished. The end result was that both Asplundh and the owners were satisfied.

Another example, stated Mr. Chancey, is where Roy Rogers called Mr. Chancey, as they did not want four black olive trees to be "butchered" that had been planted in a park. Mr. Chancey called Asplundh and Mr. Slaymaker spoke with him about this. Mr. Chancey supervised this Asplundh crew and they reduced the trees totally naturally and successfully, at the satisfaction of everyone.

A third example, said Mr. Chancey, was when a Miami attorney contacted Mr. Chancey. He supervised the cutting of their live oak and it was cleared successfully. Chair Stresau asked Mr. Chancey to take a photograph of that.

Chair Stresau recounted that the first series of photographs for the exhibit would be a large canopy tree that has enveloped the power lines. Then photographs could be displayed showing that there are two alternatives. Chair Stresau expressed that it should be explained that the problem is not FPL or Asplundh, but ASHA that is requiring the clearance, and that FPL contractors are only responsible to comply.

Chair Stresau suggested a photograph of a tree that has been trimmed and complies, and another which depicts what happens when FPL sends their contractor out and they do what is normally done. Mr. Chancey referenced the trees that were cleared along West Broward Boulevard in Plantation where there the line clearance was drastic.

Chair Stresau then suggested that a second set of photographs should depict palms. He brought some photographs of palms on Seven Isles that are directly under the power lines. Mr. Chancey said that in some cases the homeowners would be instructed to remove the trees or simply not to plant them in certain places. A good example, said Chair Stresau, are the palms at Circuit City where they are offset enough. The language under the photographs should explain the correct and incorrect way to plant palms, as a comparison.

Two different types of examples could be shown, said Chair Stresau – canopy trees and palm trees.

Mr. Partington said, as a layperson, he is hearing that they will attempt to show large trees in proximity to power lines, and will show how those trees in the power lines are trimmed by FPL, and how they should be trimmed to avoid them growing into the lines.

Mr. Chancey said that in some cases, the trees must be removed as there is no way to correct them. Chair Stresau suggested promoting the City's established program whereby palms are relocated. An appropriate photograph would be a tree crane picking up a palm. Vice Chair Brenneman stated that, where possible, the City's program should be implemented." Vice Chair Brenneman said that this is what this Subcommittee should be doing, in order to be true to its mission. She expressed that it is important to get the word out that this is available, and that the words, "where possible" should be used. Then a photograph should be shown of an example of the tree that will be planted to replace the removed tree, which will most likely be a small flowering tree.

Mr. Chancey explained that the National Wildlife Federation's Fly Away Coalition is being promoted by Broward County, whereby Greater Fort Lauderdale has been selected as the key city. There are 2,400 backyard habitats in Broward County. Mr. Chancey asked if a display could show that there is a need for shade trees, for wildlife and other reasons. There could be cases that show pictures that in order to make up for the tree parts being removed which are beneficial to wildlife, to show bigger trees inside the property where they can be put, so that it is not the message that only the small trees be utilized. Chair Stresau noted that this is not a bad idea, but that it is not the major thrust of this project.

Chair Brenneman reiterated that the focus of the display boards is the expansion of the educational message about the correct way to do something and teaching the public the consequences. Chair Stresau said that he just didn't want to get away from the original intent of this project.

Mr. Dempsey said that he could see Mr. Chancey's idea more as a graphic of someone's property from above, where you can see looking down on someone's property and seeing power lines, smaller trees. Mr. Chancey and Chair Stresau agreed that this was

more like "Right Tree, Right Place" brochures. Mr. Chancey said that he wanted this display to be better than that one.

Vice Chair Brenneman suggested that as part of the national message, it could be noted that it will keep homeowner's pools and patios cooler and help with energy, being our second concern. Chair Stresau said he would have no problem doing one picture, but it is not a part of this program. Chair Stresau asked how large the photographs were going to be, and Mr. Dempsey said they would be poster size.

Chair Stresau said that he envisioned the display as a photo montage, and that he could not imagine that the photographs would be larger than 24 inches. Chair Brenneman added that the photographs would be interchangeable.

Chair Stresau requested that a mock-up of the display be prepared before the final display is created, whereby enlargements of photographs can be made on a copier.

Mr. Dempsey envisioned these being displayed at all City events with a 15 minute presentation. He said it could be set up in the lobby, in the library, with brochures.

Chair Stresau offered to meet with Mr. Dempsey to select some photographs and then have Mr. Chancey assist with verbiage. Chair Stresau referenced the Sunshine Law and that it states that two members of a committee/board cannot be in the same room to discuss anything that will come before the board for a vote.

As to the second display board, Vice Chair Brenneman stated that the pictures can come right off the brochure itself and be augmented. She said that Mr. Dempsey has come up with a list of references and good recommendations for Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Dempsey said that ultimately there are two boards for which display panels can be prepared for as many boards as desired as they can be removed and are interchangeable.

Mr. Partington clarified that what was being suggested was that several members of the Tree Subcommittee can get together and work on this project and that none of this will come to the Utility Advisory Committee or the City Commission. Mr. Partington expressed that he had believed it to mean that once there is more than one member in a room at a time that it becomes a problem. Chair Stresau contended that it does state therein that the members cannot discuss other comments.

## **V. Good of the Committee and Announcements**

There were no additional announcements.

## **VI. Next Meeting – To be Determined**

The next meeting of the Tree Subcommittee was not discussed.

**VI. Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.