Town of Indian Trail

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
TREE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
October 21, 2014
09:00 P.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

The following members of the governing body were present:

Board Members:	Patricia Cowan, Cathi Higgins, Kelly D'Onofrio, Steve Long, Jan Brown, Alan Rosenberg, and Jorge Aponte
Members Present but not Voting:	None.
Absent:	Larry Miller, Sidney Sandy, and Dr Shamir Ally
Staff Members:	Bill Smith_ UC Urban Forrester, Pam Good- Board Secretary, Lindze Flowers, GIS Tech/Planner 1, and Rox Burhans- Interim Planning Director

Steve Long was verified as previously sworn in at the Indian Trail Administration Building on August 20th 2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- August 19th

Alan Rosenberg made a motion to approve MINUTES- August 19th, motion seconded by Jan Brown.

Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Lindze Flowers presented a power point about updates Staff is proposing to make to the Appendix 1 of the UDO that is the Town's Tree List. Staff Flowers began with a brief overview of the process of the street tree list proposed changes. She reminded the board that Staff was charged with this task from the August 19th meeting. Ms. Flowers stated some factors considered when updating the street tree list were: root intensity and any potential problem with the infrastructure, spread of the trees, getting as much various information as possible to be able to make informed decisions regarding the list of street trees.

Three categories were created for minimum planting space for the tree to be able to grow to its fruition: one category for a 4 foot planting space, a second category for a 6 foot planting space and a third category for an 8 foot planting space. All coincided with the height and spread of the trees. The list was a composite of other municipalities and other sources.
The 8 foot planting space category included trees that were at least 40 feet in height and spread when fully mature. This space was the minimum amount for this tree size to grow.
The 6 foot planting space category was for trees that were generally between 30 to 40 feet in height when fully mature. The third category of groupings of trees included trees that grew to 30 feet or les in height when fully mature. Staff also wanted to reexamine the list to ensure we have as much variety as possible. Several trees were removed from the groups for a variety of reasons (some flowering that may cause an excessive amount of debris, as well as other factors coinciding. Some trees were deleted that could cause infrastructure damage). Some Trees were added to the list. Staff added some smaller trees to the list for more options. Staff also tried to have local options included.

Member Long asked if there was consideration for native species in the list. Ms. Flowers stated that there are native trees listed and they are marked with notations.

Chair Cowan stated that this list will be well served for developers to have a list such as this to go to when deciding trees in their developing areas. She questioned if developers will look at a variety of criteria or will they choose solely for cost factors.

Staff Burhans stated that when we develop a subdivision, we do try to have variety and a couple different species of trees for several reasons. One reason is for the visual affect and the other reason is the need to have a variety to prevent the spread of disease. Staff Burhans also stated that you need to be careful when choosing some native trees as most native trees drop berries.

Chair Cowan asked if Urban Forrester Bill Smith had reviewed this list.

Staff Burhans replied that he'd had a lengthy conversation with Mr. Smith regarding this list. He does have it but has been unable to give Staff feedback regarding the list but did give advice about having language regarding minimum planting soil volume, also making sure construction debris and compaction doesn't happen so to have an environment for healthy planting and growth. Staff Burhans has asked Mr. Smith to go through the species and red line items but haven't gotten the document back from him yet.

Member Rosenberg mentioned that in the Bonterra subdivision, trees weren't planted properly. The root bulb was left too high above ground. The subdivision had to replace a number of trees that weren't planted properly. He asked the question if there been discussion as to requirements for how these trees should be planted by the developers.

Staff Burhans stated that the Towns' UDO has minimum planting details of the depth, width and soil mixture. Planning Staff do site inspections but do not have an arborist on site with each inspection.

Member Rosenberg asked how the Town of Indian Trail prevents circumstances like Bonterra development from continuing to happen with needing to replace trees at a cost to the homeowners.

Discussion followed regarding options of learning more about specific knowledge of trees as areas are developed in the future. An arborist who might be paid part time to be hired for the point of inspection was considered as a possible solution. Staff Burhans suggested that planning staff or

engineer staff possibly receive training on what to look for when inspecting a development site.

Chair Cowan asked if the developer might be required to hire an expert to check the trees at the time of inspection.

Member Rosenberg stated that it may not be good to have a developer hire the person who would be checking the trees as he would have a vested interest in the result.

Staff Burhans stated that he would look into possible training opportunities. It might be speaking with Mr. Smith to teach what he looks for or other training resources. He also explained that Staff does make tree suggestions to developers and do have a reasonable understanding of what works in this climate and balance with what is available in nursery stock and reasonably priced.

Member Rosenberg mentioned a developer friend of his in Atlanta, GA used different species of trees on different streets of their development.

Tree board can't sponsor text amendments but can suggest items to Staff so they can bring the item to the Planning Board. Staff Burhans suggested that Ms. Flowers create links from the various trees to pictures so the board would be better informed of the visual of each species of tree. He suggested a link to the Arbor Day Foundation for pictures.

Alan Rosenberg made a motion to support Staff in updating the present Tree List, motion seconded by Steve Long.

Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURN

Alan Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Long.

Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

Chairman: Patricia S. Cowan

Secretary: Pamela L Good