

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PORT ORANGE  
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE – CITY HALL  
2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA  
MARCH 20, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.

A Special Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Macaluso at 4:00 p.m.

Present: John Macaluso, Chairman  
Kristine Cunningham  
Nancy Vaughn  
Philip Klema

Absent: Newton White (excused)  
Derek LaMontagne (excused)  
Joseph Fazzie (excused)

Also Present: Tim Burman, Community Development Director  
Shelby Field, Assistant City Clerk

**B. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

2. Consideration of Minutes January 28, 2019

*Motion to approve the January 28, 2019 minutes as presented was made by Member Vaughn and Seconded by Member Cunningham. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

3. Raintree Subdivision Entrance Historic Tree Removal

Chairman Macaluso gave an overview of what he presented to City Council on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 related to the topic. Ronny Buttrum, Deputy Director Public Works, read six options for the Raintree Subdivision Live Oak tree to the Board. The options are as follows; pruning the roots and remove and replace the damaged pavement, closing the existing entrance, relocate the entrance to the west (would require purchasing the existing property), removing the tree and putting in a left hand turn lane, removing the tree and replacing it with a tree that has a smaller root system, and root prune the tree and expand the island around the tree.

Lynn Stevens, Public Works & Utilities Director, answered questions from the Board relating to the options to expand the island with the tree and close off the entrance. Staff believes neither option is feasible as it creates issues for emergency vehicles.

Member Klema does not believe that the option to expand the island with the tree is not feasible. He stated that he has measured the area himself and believes it would not be an issue

for emergency vehicles as suggested by staff. Member Klema asked for the numbers from the canvassing of the neighborhood. Mr. Buttrum provided those numbers.

Jake Johannsson, City Manager, responded to Mr. Klema's concerns and suggested he come in and check the traffic code to make sure the Board and staff understand each other and are working in collaboration.

Member Vaughn suggested going through the options and narrowing them down to the ones that are the most feasible. She stated that option two to close the entrance is not possible and neither is option three to relocate the entrance to the subdivision as it is the most expensive at \$400,000. Member Vaughn asked for clarification on what option one was again. Mr. Buttrum responded it was the option to prune the roots and repave the road. Ms. Stevens explained to the Board that while the option to re-prune the roots is still available there is no guarantee the tree would survive. Staff recommends option one to prune the roots and repave the road.

Steve Edgar, Contract City Forester, answered questions from the Board relating to the life span of the tree and what his opinion is moving forward. Mr. Edgar informed the Board that it's a very durable tree and it is probably 90-100 years old and will continue to grow. He stated that while Live Oaks are resistant to decay, pruning the roots will introduce decay and there are no guarantees.

Member Cunningham asked if there is a way to redirect the roots. Mr. Edgar responded that there are heavy, structural soils that will encourage the roots to grow in different directions, but it can be expensive and takes some special care to put in. Member Cunningham stated it would still probably be less expensive than relocating the entrance. Ms. Stevens stated that while it could be possible the tree will continue to grow outward 1 inch in diameter every year and will eventually outgrow the island.

Chairman Macaluso asked staff what their recommendation to Council will be. Ms. Stevens responded that there are currently 2 options they are considering; removing and replacing the tree or pruning the roots and repaving the road. She clarified that with the option to prune the roots the City will be back to discuss this topic in the future. She stated that the option to redirect the roots would create a speedbump at the entrance.

Member Vaughn does not want to see the tree removed and no tree replace it. Mr. Johannsson stated staff wants to work in the best interest of the tax payers and believes Council would gladly try to preserve the tree.

Chairman Macaluso read Member LaMontagne's comments and concerns into the record. Tim Burman, Community Development Director, responded to Member LaMontagne's question regarding the City not paying into the tree bank, stating that the City would pay into the tree mitigation bank and has in the past.

*Member Cunningham made a motion to support staff's recommendation to prune the tree roots and repave the pavement and Seconded by Member Vaughn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sarah Jones, Citizen, asked for clarification as to what the motion made by the Board was. Shelby Field, Assistant City Clerk, read the motion.

Robert Reinhagen, citizen, asked if staff discussed raising the road slightly. Mr. Johansson responded yes although it would have to be a very gradual ramp but wouldn't be as gradual as it needs to be, so it was ruled out.

Savannah Weaver, citizen, is in support of saving the tree and believes there are ways of doing this such as private funding.

Margret Crandall, citizen, questioned the speed of the people coming in the subdivision and believes the road could be raised some. Chairman Macaluso responded that he does not have an answer to either issue.

**D. BOARD COMMENTS**

Chairman Macaluso stated he would like to raise the number of meetings to 6 meetings a year.

*Member Vaughn made a motion to change the number of meetings to 6 meetings a year, with the 2 new meetings being at 4:00pm to accommodate staff and Seconded by Member Klema. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

\*\*As this topic was not on the agenda for this meeting, the official discussion and vote will be moved to the next agenda.

**E. NEXT MEETING DATE**

- 4. Next Meeting Date: April 22, 2019
- 5. Items for Next Agenda

Planning for a booth at Family Days  
Environmental Summit  
Single Use Plastic Straw Use in Port Orange  
Meeting schedule/Board Member Attendance

**F. ADJOURNMENT** – 5:06pm

  
Chairman John Macaluso