



Village of Palmetto Bay

MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING: April 9, 2015 at 1:00 pm

Members Present:

Henry Clifford, Chairman
Craig Grossenbacher
Anthony Sabbag

Other Attendees:

Corrice E. Patterson, Dir. Of Public Works
Luz Dominguez, Admin. Assistant for Public Works
John Dubois, Vice-Mayor (Guest)
Dr. Carl Lewis, Fairchild Tropical Gardens (Guest)
Mr. Leslie A. Bowe, Fairchild Tropical Gardens (Guest)
George Puig, Kimley-Horn Landscape Architect (Guest via telephone)

Meeting called to order at 1:20 pm.

(Items #3 and #4 taken out of order to accommodate guests attending meeting)

Item #3- Presentation of Orchid Program from Fairchild Tropical Gardens

CP- Announced Dr. Carl Lewis of Fairchild Tropical Gardens and called him up to make his presentation of the Million Orchid Program.

Dr. Lewis presented a slideshow and gave some details on the Fairchild Orchid Program:

- Fairchild Tropical Gardens has a new lab orchid propagation project with a 5 year- 1 million orchid propagation plan. Currently doing a lot of genetic studies on orchids for genetic understanding;
- Orchid seeds are very tiny (microscopic), and one pod can contain up to 3 million seeds, but fewer than 1 in a million actually grow. Takes 6-9 months to be ready for planting.
- Similar, 30 year project has already started in Singapore, because 200 orchid species were diminished down to 30 at one point;
- Project has discovered that Urban Environment turns out to be better for orchid growth than forest area. There's a layer of conservation in a City.
- Florida has a lot of canopy for orchid density- Lots of Oaks and Tabebuia
- Fairchild Tropical Gardens is currently working with 4 orchid species:
 1. Butterfly
 2. Dollar
 3. Cockle Shell, which blooms for 9 months out of the year, and
 4. Cowhorn
- Lab is sponsored and run by volunteers and the Association of Natural Arborists
- Grant proposal is being made to the EPA for a mobile lab
- Program is also working with schools- 1st school to incorporate the program was Terra Environmental Research Institute and the latest school to participate in the program is Richmond Heights.

As for the incorporation of the Orchid Program into the Village beautification project, Dr. Lewis recommends planting during the rainy season, which is in May-June, and using ghost and terrestrial orchids because they are easy to propagate for terrestrial planting, and not just in trees.

HC- Asked if lab is also performing tissue culturing, or just seeds. Dr. Lewis confirmed tissue culturing is also possible. Asked when we can sign the deal to integrate the orchid program into the Village?

Dr. Lewis- We can start today. Depends on how many orchids are needed, but the minimum number of orchids for project must be 150,000 at a reduced price of \$1.00 each, instead of \$1.50.

Vice Mayor - mentioned we were given a state grant for beautification of 2 large end median strips to be done by end of July. Council is interested in doing all medians along US-1 and asked for amounts to do all. It was calculated that cost for entire is approximately \$1,000,000 to do all medians on US1. This project would be for only the two large end medians, and the rest of the medians would be planted in 2016.

CP- Kimley-Horn is designing the full project but design is done and funding approved on only the 2 end medians for now.

Vice-Mayor- for the Downtown Redevelopment, committee approved 7 ½ in downtown redevelopment infrastructure. Full vote of commission expected on April 21st. Need support and to work with Kimley-Horn plans to show enhancement to area.

Item #4- Presentation of Orchid Program from Fairchild Tropical Gardens

Mr. Puig (Kimley-Horn) - Stated that plans have been submitted to FDOT for comments and expects to receive comments next week. Kirk Hoosac, District 6 Manager, would take into account the deadline. He also pointed out that we have natives in design for low maintenance. Several large oak trees are perfect for semi-shade and have space for orchid planting. If needed there is irrigation we can adjust to accommodate orchids.

Vice-Mayor asked if US-1 would be blocked to perform orchid planting, and would there be a need for a cherry picker out there. Dr. Lewis said there may be a partial closure of the lane closest to median when planting taking place, but no major road closures needed.

Mr. Puig- Confirmed that work can start on the rest of the right of way, just waiting to hear back from FDOT. We will absolutely have full plan by end of summer. We are filing in and keeping main canopy trees. Good opportunity to install orchids and as suggested by Anthony Sabbag, 10 point installation process from Kimley-Horn can be added as line item to current contract.

CG- asked if it can be timed so that planting project is at the right time this June on existing trees, to which Dr. Lewis responded that if we have irrigation option, then timing is not necessary. It's harder with new trees to plant orchids.

Vice-Mayor recommends having an event maybe in June to do a big splash about this project and get some media buzz and get support ahead of time. If timed correctly, with final two end medians, can use that as an example.

CG- Sounds great. How many yellow tabs are staying? None.

HC- 18 Live oaks and sables can be used for planting too.

Dr. Lewis- Tabebuias are also very nice.

Mr. Puig- Pink and yellow tabs will be removed- only leaving the oaks, and existing sables will stay. Predominant trees are black olives, mahoganies and a couple of oaks.

Vice-Mayor- The idea is that US-1 will be a centerpiece. Would it be better to consistently put oak and black olives and eliminate sables?

Dr. Lewis- Depends on design

HC- Would like Mexican Sienna and Sulzneri, since it is velvety and prettier. It grows to 4-5 feet and doesn't get too tall. The Senna also blooms all year round, 8-9 feet maximum, and is good for orchid growth.

Mr. Puig- We have Casia shrubs that show longevity and have done well in the past.

AS- asked if can have contractor remove rocks greater than 1" (a 50/50), and use 100% decomposed compost to be his backfill. Mentioned that item #9 be changed from City of Hollywood to Village of PB.

HC- a concrete vase holds no food at all and must add organic material to have plants. The DRTF wanted a feature at 184th Street.

CP- there will be a monument at 184th Street, but it is not shown on the plans sent to FDOT. There is space available for monument.

HC- Lighting plans- will electrical be put in later?

Mr. Puig- Yes, electricity will be added later. Irrigation controller can also be connected to electrical connection. Pump is connection to water line.

Vice-Mayor- Whose power are we tapping into? Is it a pump?

CP- We will have to meter this, or we can connect to solar panels

HC- Can we do adequate LED illumination with solar power?

Mr. Puig- He will contact vendor for that information.

Vice-Mayor- 30 trees at 50 orchids planted per tree would be \$1,500. Maybe FDOT can provide free bucket and labor.

Dr. Lewis- Yes it makes sense to bid before.

CP- I'll start working with Fanny to do a special event in June. The Vice-Mayor can get the media/TV involved.

Vice-Mayor- Sables realistically it won't kill us to do a 2nd phase for Triangle we should use ladders on triangles instead of bucket to avoid road closures.

Dr. Lewis- Volunteers have to sign paperwork (hold harmless agreements) before planting on trees.

CP- Requested copies of the documents that we need to prepare.

Dr. Lewis- looking for a lot of existing trees so you have to decide if you want 3 year or 5 year timeframe.

Vice-Mayor- It's easy to figure out how many you want for all of Palmetto Bay

CP- We can use our tree inventory to determine how many orchids we need per tree.

Dr. Lewis- the City of Coral Gables was eager to have plans for Miracle Mile, but that was put on hold, so we've learned that plans can change.

Vice-Mayor- We will not be pulling out any Oaks. As part of Tree City USA's \$50,000 budget, can this be used for orchids and maintenance? Yes

CP- Open grants cycle again from Urban Forestry for maximum of \$30,000 plus \$30,000 match.

Dr. Lewis- We can help get proposal for grant ready.

Vice-Mayor- if Fairchild Gardens knows of any grants please let us know.

Item #5- Review of Earth Week plans (April 19-26, 2015)

CP- handed Tree Board Members calendar of events for Earth Week and confirmed their attendance is needed on April 15th for winning school poster contest voting, April 22nd for Tree planting ceremony at winning school, and April 25th for Tree giveaway event. All members present confirmed their attendance to one or more of these events.

Luz- confirmed attendance of UF Extension- Master Gardeners and Village Gardening Club at Tree Giveaway Event.

Item #6- Urban & Community Forestry Grant Open Cycle (Deadline May 1, 2015)

CP- Currently working on new Urban & Community Forestry Grant application and need 5 letters of support for grant of up to \$30,000. Deadline is May 1, 2015. There are 2 categories to apply under:

- 1- Local government program for development or improvement, which we can use to develop a Tree Management Plan, or for In-house educational training for staff (funds allocated for 3 years).
- 2- Site specific project planting (i.e.- Pine Rockland)

Vice-Mayor questioned why Steven from Public Works staff is not sitting in on these meetings since he is ISA certified? Is he going to be used for supervision of these projects? Makes sense to get him involved.

CP- explained that Steven just returned from medical leave and was unable to attend this meeting, but will definitely be involved in the supervision of project.

AS- requested sample letter of recommendation be sent to the Tree Board for processing.

Vice-Mayor recommended using grant to request a bucket truck as part of the 3-year program.

Item #7- Update on Tree Management Plan

HC- Asked if there is a maintenance plan for the 25,000 trees in the Village on the next budget, and can Tree Board be provided information before next meeting. Corrice responded, yes.

CG- prohibited species ruining the ROW should be removed rather than maintained. This could be a yearly project to identify priority trees for removal as part of a comprehensive plan to manage street tree canopy and to replace such trees with appropriate trees (right tree, right place). He offered to see if DERM could issue a letter to property owners who do don't agree with the removal of these trees to inform them of the tree's illegal status.

Vice-Mayor- Agrees. Resident should be responsible for maintenance of these trees.

CG- There's a legal issue, that although property owner is responsible for the swale, he or she can't prevent government from maintaining the ROW. In exceptional cases where ROW is being destroyed, tree removal may be appropriate.

AS- not all trees need to be removed to fix sidewalks.

Vice-Mayor- suggests taking photos to document and show that ROW has not been maintained. Before anything is done, send to Village attorney for approval.

HC- It's not the homeowner's ROW, it's the City's.

CG- Not removing a hazardous, nuisance or prohibited tree is not proper management of the Village's street tree canopy. Recommends Tree Management Plan mentions request for bucket truck.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 pm