



**GREENSPACE AD HOC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2016**

MINUTES

Members Present: Brad Jones
Jennifer Pindyck
David Sacks
Steve Sanchez

Members Absent: Dee Merriam

Item No. 1 Meeting called to Order

Item No. 2 Adoption of Agenda

Item No. 3 Approval of Minutes
The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting (12/8/15)

Item No. 4 Tree Ordinance Discussion

Brad Jones developed a working draft of a potential residential tree ordinance for discussion. Points discussed among the committee included:

- All agreed there should be separate requirements for “builders” (meaning anyone who is pulling a permit for some kind of residential construction) as opposed to “homeowners” (tree removals not associated with any kind of permit).
- The idea for two sets of requirements is to minimize any burden of imposition on residents, while protecting the area’s tree canopy from construction impacts.
- Tree Protection Details should be a minimum requirement for tree or landscape plan submittals in permit applications. The City should adopt standard details, and members of the committee could provide examples.
- There was a question of how to measure tree canopy on required plans. Consensus was to use Critical Root Zone (two feet of diameter for every inch of trunk diameter measured at “breast height” (DBH). Anything else such as surveying the actual canopy, crown spread or other calculation would be too onerous a requirement.
- Discussed size of trees to be regulated:
 - 8” or 10” DBH threshold for “protected” trees.
 - Additional restrictions on “specimen” trees, healthy trees of large size, (24” DBH for hardwoods and 30” for pines was discussed but final size not determined)
- Homeowners can remove up to three “protected” trees per calendar year without a permit, but would provide the city a form notifying them of the removals. If the Homeowners removes a specimen tree or more than three “protected” trees, a permit would be obtained.
- The ordinance needs to have flexibility to allow removal of a specimen for good reason, which may require a site evaluation and report by an arborist.

- Concern with type of report or evaluation prepared by an arborist accepted by the City, as there can be a lot of subjectivity in arborists' evaluations.
- Builders need to be able to build, clearcutting would be necessary inside the footprint of proposed structures, and at least 10 feet around it.
- For builders, allow however many removals as long as overall canopy requirements are met (e.g. plant approved canopy species and/or preserve existing to meet a City canopy goal in "x" years in the future.)
- An incentive should be developed to preserve trees not required to be removed, or to adjust a design to work around unique trees, but no consensus was reached.
- "Boundary trees" (Trees on or just over a property line) should be regulated in the ordinance so a builder will alleviate impacts to critical root zones on adjacent property.
- Issues are complex, but residential ordinance should be written to be simple.

Next Steps

Committee members will provide input in the draft document in "track changes" format. Resulting comments and notes in the document will be discussion points of the next meeting. Resulting draft will be reviewed by the committee for approval to be submitted to the Board of Mayor and Commissioners and City staff for review.

Next meeting date TBD.

Item No. 6

Public Comment

Martha McDermott encouraged the committee to "sleep on it" and encouraged the committee to keep working through the ordinance. Avondale Estates needs something simple so that people pay attention to it.

Item No. 7

Adjournment at 9:15 p.m.