

**BREVARD COUNTY LANDSCAPING, LAND CLEARING
AND TREE PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

August 3, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present

Robert Day-Primary Representative, Brevard Nature Alliance
Jackie Gregory-Primary Representative, Commission District 1
Susan Hall-Alternate Representative, American Society of Landscape Architects
Vaughn Holeman-Primary Representative, District 4
Billy Kempfer-Alternate Representative, Florida Forestry Association
Rochelle Lawandales-Primary Representative, Commission District 2
Robert Lee-Primary Representative, American Society of Civil Engineers
James Payne-Primary Representative, Cattleman's Association
Maureen Rupe-Primary Representative, Commission District 5
Lisa Smith-Primary Representative, Florida Native Plant Society
Brad Smith-Primary Representative, American Society of Landscape Architects
Dick Thompson-Primary Representative, Commission District 3
Earl Underhill-Primary Representative, Florida Forestry Association
Facilitator-Marilyn Crotty, Director, Florida Institute of Government

Task Force Members Absent

Bo Barnavon-Primary Representative, Homebuilders and Contractors Association
Steve Brown-Alternate Representative, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association
Bud Crisafulli-Alternate Representative, Florida Farm Bureau
Lynn Girling-Primary Representative, International Society of Arborists
Don Hawthorne-Primary Representative, Garden Club
Anthony Koromilas-Alternative Representative, District 1
Charlie Moehle-Alternate Representative, Commission District 2
Thomas Schuller-Primary Representative, Florida Farm Bureau
Jim Spratt-Primary Representative, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association
Dan Zrallack-Alternate Representative, American Society of Civil Engineers

County Staff Present

Amanda Elmore-Supervisor, NRMO
Sherry Williams-Special Projects Coordinator, NRMO
Dan VanGenechten-Environmental Specialist, NRMO
Liz McDuffee-Secretary I, NRMO

Signed-in Citizens

Kathleen Burson

Call to Order

Marilyn Crotty noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3 pm.

- The task force agreed that the July 6th and the July 20th meeting minutes were correct as written.
- Sherry Williams distributed an LLTP meeting attendance record and asked the task force members to review it for accuracy.
- In response to the task force's request to have more projects presented, Susan Hall and Kathleen Burson would like to present projects at the next meeting if there is time.

General Discussion

One task force member asked whether the group needed to meet every two weeks. It was noted that the Board resolution allowed a six-month time period for the task force to develop recommendations; however, the task force may ask the Board for an extension. Several task force members remarked on the tremendous amount of information that must be reviewed between meetings.

The task force discussed other approaches to crafting the recommendations, including appointing a subcommittee to work on a draft or having staff develop a draft. Another suggestion was to take the shorter version that Dick Thompson helped to develop several years ago and use it as a starting point. Earl Underhill asked for a copy of Dick Thompson's simplified version of the code. After some discussion, it was agreed the task force members would continue with the current approach of discussing the Draft Concepts developed by staff and focusing on the five items listed in Ernie Brown's letter to all task force representatives. Lisa Smith stated that the task force won't develop an ordinance that will apply to every situation, but it must provide staff with the guidance to make decisions. There is not enough flexibility with the current code. Once the task force establishes the foundation and guidelines, then staff will write the actual code.

The task force asked about circumstances when a site has no canopy. Amanda Elmore stated that, currently, if a site does not have canopy, there are no preservation requirements – only landscaping requirements.

The task force discussed focusing on the problem areas first. The Commission identified three areas that it felt needed review: betterment plan, tree removal permit and agriculture exemption. Amanda Elmore told the task force that most problems that her department encounters involve multifamily (4 – 5 acres) and small commercial sites. Lisa Smith suggested that task force members read the public comments from the workshop to help determine where the problems are.

The task force discussed why trees aren't maintained in right of ways in Brevard County. There usually is not enough width in the easement to accommodate utilities and a sidewalk and still have adequate space for a tree.

Tree Canopy Definition

The task force reached consensus on the following definition of tree canopy: The area consisting of a tree's branches in all directions from its trunk, the outer edge of which is the dripline. It was agreed that any requirements for native trees would be discussed in the Performance Standards.

Performance Standards

Marilyn Crotty checked consensus on the following two options. Option 1 had 5 supporters and Option 2 had 4 supporters. No consensus was reached.

OPTION 1			
Zoning Type	Preserve	Plant	Total
Single family residential	15%	15%	30%
Multifamily residential	10%	15%	25%
Commercial	7%	13%	20%
Industrial	5%	10%	15%

OPTION 2			
Zoning Type	Preserve	Plant	Total
Single family residential	20%	10%	30%
Multifamily residential	15%	10%	25%
Commercial	10%	10%	20%
Industrial	10%	5%	15%

Citizen's Comments

Kathleen Burson reminded task force members that understory is important not only for the survival of pines, but also of oaks. Oaks are susceptible to root rot, therefore, it is important to preserve existing drainage patterns. In addition, if understory is left, no irrigation is needed. Kathleen stated that we need flexibility and asked the task force to keep its goals in mind. Ms. Burson also stated that we want to have healthy trees to carry our heritage into the future.

Next meeting

Our next scheduled meeting is on August 17, 2005 at the Brevard County Agriculture Extension Office. The task force will refer to the Draft Concepts developed by staff and continue addressing the following items:

1. Definition of Canopy. (Done)
2. Canopy preservation requirements for different land uses. (No consensus reached yet.)
3. Treatment of softwoods versus hardwoods in tree preservation requirements.
4. Incentives for preservation beyond the minimum.
5. Meeting canopy requirements through additional plantings and mitigation.

Please let staff know if you will be unable to attend any of the task force meetings. Also, your prompt arrival would be appreciated. If a quorum of eight members is not present for the meeting, then no official business can be conducted. Alternative Representatives are encouraged to attend all meetings - not just when the Primary Representative is unable to attend so that they will have an understanding of progress to date. Staff will continue to make reminder calls to task force members the day before meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.