

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

December 7, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present

Bo Barnavon-Primary Representative, Homebuilders and Contractors Association
Kathleen Burson-Alternate Representative, Florida Native Plant Society
Robert Day-Primary Representative, Brevard Nature Alliance
Jackie Gregory-Primary Representative, Commission District 1
Susan Hall-Alternate Representative, American Society of Landscape Architects
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
Brad Smith-Primary Representative, American Society of Landscape Architects
Lisa Smith-Primary Representative, Florida Native Plant Society
Facilitator-Marilyn Crotty, Director, Florida Institute of Government

Task Force Members Absent

Steve Brown-Alternate Representative, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association
Bud Crisafulli-Alternate Representative, Florida Farm Bureau
Roger Daniels-Substitute Representative, International Society of Arborists
Lynn Girling-Primary Representative, International Society of Arborists
Don Hawthorne-Primary Representative, Garden Club
Vaughn Holeman-Primary Representative, District 4
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
Dick Thompson-Primary Representative, Commission District 3
Earl Underhill-Primary Representative, Florida Forestry Association
Dan Zrallack-Alternate Representative, American Society of Civil Engineers

County Staff Present

Ernie Brown-Director, NRMO
Amanda Elmore-Supervisor, NRMO
Sherry Williams-Special Projects Coordinator, NRMO
Liz McDuffee-Secretary I, NRMO

Signed-in Citizens

None

Call to Order

Marilyn Crotty called the meeting to order at 2:19 pm after a quorum was present.

Lisa Smith stated that she was not present last week when the 11/9/05 minutes were approved by the task force; however, she did not believe that there was a consensus for changing the points in the “Requirements for Parking Areas Point Schedule for Preserved Native Trees” table as reflected in the approved minutes. Lisa wants to ensure that the task force is able to explain/justify the number of points that are being awarded. Marilyn Crotty stated that the task force would be able to discuss the changes further when it does the final review of the draft next week and testing would be conducted in January to determine suitability of recommendations.

After a short period of discussion, the 11/30/05 minutes were approved with the following change:

- Change “Specimen or Heritage Trees” to “all trees” in the bullet describing the changes to the Point Schedule for Preserved Trees table on page three of the minutes.

Draft Approvals/Changes

- Add that these standards will be met first by trying to preserve existing native trees and shrubs.
- Add that canopy for planted trees must be 25% of the projected canopy size at maturity. Add a chart to the ordinance reflecting this and ensure the chart is tested against a sample project.
- The task force discussed adding to Section 62-3642. "Incentives for Increased Canopy and Tree Preservation and Increased Landscaping", that additional building height (Floor Area Ratio) may be approved for commercial/industrial incentives. Staff will check with Planning and Zoning to see if an additional story could be added to the project if significant preservation is made (i.e., the applicant would be allowed to petition for a conditional use permit).
- After extended discussion, the Task Force reached consensus on replacing the landscape points system with the following minimum requirements (based on the deleted point system values) and revise Section 62-3639-"Landscape Performance Standards" to reflect these changes:
 - Minimum Canopy Coverage per acre of buildable area (already established earlier in the draft)
 - Minimum Number of Trees: 5 per acre of buildable area (The task force vote was 8 to 2 in favor of 5 trees. Four trees and six trees were also discussed, but not approved.)
 - Total DBH: 60 inches per acre of buildable area (based on current landscaping requirements)
 - Replacement Mitigation: A larger tree will be required to replace the tree being destroyed. Four and six inch DBH replacement trees were discussed.
 - Heat Island requirements* (commercial and industrial only)
 - Buffer requirements* (commercial and industrial only)

*Staff will revise the heat island and buffer requirements and include these changes in the final draft that the task force is reviewing on December 14th.

- - 2500 square feet of landscaped area per buildable acre. This could include shrubs and plantings under preserved trees. It does not include sod.
 - 250 fully rooted shrubs in 3 gallon containers or their equivalent (i.e., the total would equal 750 gallons).
 - Officially tie these changes to grades and standards for nursery stock.
- On the new draft, page 23, Section 62-3643-"Alternative Standards, Mitigation and Variances"
 - Change the section title to "Waivers and Alternative Landscape Enhancement Plans."
 - Add the process to be followed when developing an alternative landscaping plan. The process would follow a priority system as follows:
 - a) Develop an alternative landscape enhancement plan for on-site landscaping and show how it will benefit the public/community,
 - b) Waivers
 - c) If standards can't be met on site, mitigation on site could be considered.
 - d) If on-site mitigation cannot be provided, then mitigation off site could be considered.
 - e) If none or a combination of the above methods cannot meet or exceed the performance standards, then compensation for the loss of canopy or protected trees could be considered. (These are not fines.)
 - Delete item (1) Variances section. Variances are allowed only through the Board of Adjustment or Board of County Commissioners.
 - Change "Betterment plans" to "Alternative landscape enhancement plans." Add that, excluding plans for single-family, residential lots that are not part of a platted subdivision, alternative-landscaping plans must be signed and sealed by a registered landscape architect licensed in the State of Florida pursuant to Chapter 481, Part II.
 - Section 62-3643, (3) b.: Delete "(Citrus trees can be replaced with native species.)"
 - Somewhere in the ordinance, add a note that existing trees successfully relocated on site can be counted toward planted tree requirements, but not preservation requirements.
 - Add suggested relocation techniques to ensure viability of relocated trees.
 - Section 62-3643, (4)d.i.(c): Change "C=\$30,000/acre" to "C=\$60,000/acre or a tree appraisal as determined by a certified arborist, whichever is greater."
- Section 62-3644, Add "Variances" to the title. Add a general description of the variance process.

- The task force suggested that Ernie Brown be given authority in the ordinance to establish a Technical Review Committee (with representatives from other departments and/or NRMO staff) to review alternative plans.
- Add a section for the recommendation of fines to Special Magistrate. Staff noted that fines are established by Chapter 2 of the County Code and by the Special Magistrate during the code enforcement process.
- Where appropriate in the ordinance, add references to the current version of “Florida Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants” from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry.

Citizen’s Comments

There were no citizen’s comments.

Next meeting

Our next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, December 14 at the Brevard County Agriculture Extension Office. The task force will discuss Ag exemption options and will begin its review of the draft final. **Please note that the December 14 meeting will be an extended meeting starting at 1pm and ending at 8pm.** Dinner will be provided.

Because of the short time between meetings, please check the Natural Resources web site at http://natres.brevardcounty.us/landscaping_meetings.cfm to review material before the next meeting.

Please let staff know if you will be unable to attend the December 14th task force meeting. If a quorum of eight members is not present for the meeting, then no official business can be conducted. Staff will continue to make reminder calls to task force members the day before meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.