

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

August 17, 2005 Meeting Minutes Draft

Task Force Members Present

Steve Brown-Alternate Representative, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association  
Robert Day-Primary Representative, Brevard Nature Alliance  
Jackie Gregory-Primary Representative, Commission District 1  
Susan Hall-Alternate Representative, American Society of Landscape Architects  
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  
Thomas Schuller-Primary Representative, Florida Farm Bureau  
Lisa Smith-Primary Representative, Florida Native Plant Society  
Brad Smith-Primary Representative, American Society of Landscape Architects  
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  
Bud Crisafulli-Alternate Representative, Florida Farm Bureau  
Lynn Girling-Primary Representative, International Society of Arborists  
Don Hawthorne-Primary Representative, Garden Club  
Vaughn Holeman-Primary Representative, District 4  
Billy Kempfer-Alternate Representative, Florida Forestry Association  
Anthony Koromilas-Alternative Representative, District 1  
Charlie Moehle-Alternate Representative, Commission District 2  
Jim Spratt-Primary Representative, Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association  
Dick Thompson-Primary Representative, Commission District 3  
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  
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 3:01 pm.

- The task force agreed that the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes were correct as written.
- Sherry Williams distributed copies of two newspaper articles that Lisa Smith provided. Sherry also distributed the draft ordinance from Dick Thompson that was mentioned in the previous meeting.
- Kathleen Burson, a member of the Florida Native Plant Society, presented a project plan done in the typical way (i.e., with the site plan being developed before the tree survey is completed and evaluated). Then Kathleen presented the same project with a revised site plan taking into account the existing canopy. Density was reduced slightly, but almost the entire canopy was preserved in the revised plan. Amanda Elmore stated that it is more beneficial to perform and evaluate the tree survey before the site plan, but the current standard operating procedure is to perform it after.

## General Discussion

The Task Force resumed its discussion on Draft Concepts focusing first on definitions.

- Dripline definition- The task force agreed to use the definition in the existing code: “Dripline means an imaginary vertical plumb line that extends downward from the tips of the outermost tree branches and intersects the ground.”
- Native Species- The task force agreed to return to this definition after the LLTP code is more established, but suggested looking at the existing code definition. Amanda Elmore suggested adding a reference to the USF herbarium collection at <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/>
- Tree – The task force removed the references to “large” and “native species,” resulting in the following definition: “a perennial, woody plant that is generally characterized by having a self-supporting trunk with secondary branches.” The task force asked that small, medium and large trees be defined in another section. Staff agreed to develop this language. The task force also discussed its intent to exclude citrus trees and exotic, invasive trees. Steve Brown stated that State Rule 5B-57.007 contains a Noxious Weed List of invasive species that are not allowed. Staff will research this State Rule and report to the task force at the next meeting.
- Root Protection Zone – The task force discussed changing the referenced radius from “five times the trunk’s diameter” to “three times” or “a range from three to five times the trunk’s diameter.” The task force agreed to return to this definition later.
- Specimen Tree – The task force discussed removing who determines when a tree is a Specimen Tree. Rob Lee would prefer that it not be 100% discretionary. Rob liked Charlotte’s definition of a Specimen Tree, but would like to see more examples specific to Florida. Brad Smith suggested that a Specimen Tree could be defined as a tree in good health that is 75% of its maximum size as listed on Dr. Gilman’s web site. Tom Schuller also wanted to tie in Dr. Gilman’s web site and asked staff to make recommendations regarding how the web site could be used with the ordinance.

- Heritage Tree – OK as written.

### **Performance Standards**

The task force expressed some frustration with getting bogged down with the details of revising/combining the ordinances.

Brad Smith stated that he developed a draft based on incentives. Brad gave the draft to staff for distribution to the task force before the next meeting.

Lisa Smith stated that staff works with the existing ordinances every day and there are really only a few problems that staff has identified (e.g., tree canopy, lack of incentives, lack of flexibility, etc.). The entire task force requested that staff develop a draft ordinance based on previous task force discussions and the goals that the task force has identified. The task force could then red line the draft and develop it further. Amanda Elmore agreed that staff would take the current ordinances and keep what is working, mark out what does not work as well and draft additional language based on what the task force has been discussing. The draft will be sent to the task force at least one week before the next scheduled meeting.

### **August 31 Meeting Cancelled**

Due to Labor Day and staff needing more time to draft the ordinance, the task force agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for August 31. Our next scheduled meeting is September 14.

### **Task Force Extension**

The task force agreed by consensus to ask the Board for a three-month extension. Staff will research availability of rooms starting with the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Citizen's Comments**

There were no citizen's comments.

### **Next meeting**

Our next scheduled meeting is on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 5pm at the Brevard County Agriculture Extension Office. The task force will review the Draft Ordinance developed by staff. If necessary, the task force will plan for a future session that is longer than two hours at that time.

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 4:54 PM.