



**MINUTES  
CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH  
TREE & LANDSCAPE BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM  
THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2026 -- 6:09 PM**

**ROLL CALL AND RECORDING OF ABSENCES:** Present Diane Brown; Ginny Powell; Priscilla Hallowell; Donna Kerner, Chair. Also present: Scott Rodriguez, Asst. Director for Planning & Preservation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADDITIONS / DELETIONS / REORDERING AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. November 13, 2025 meeting minutes – To be approved at the May meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**REPORTS: ADVISOR, CHAIR, COMMITTEE(S), AND BOARD MEMBERS:** S. Rodriguez advised the kick-off meeting for the Landscape Code re-write will be next week along with other environmental sections of Code only. The City Commission supported the re-write. Chen Moore and Associates will be the consultant. The budgeted amount (140K) comes from the Sustainable Bonus Incentive Fund. A 5-6 person team of the landscape team and principal. It will be nearer to the end of the year until the product comes to the advisory boards. Clarification on numerous items is needed to enable staff to better assist the public. The revision will be strict in the sense that staff, City Commission and the Special Magistrate will not have the ability to alter penalties and requirements. An economic hardship is not a factor in reducing penalties. It is a three-phased project:

**Phase I** Update landscape code sections;

**Phase II** Prepare the landscape design handbook/manual with industry best practices (installation and guidance).

**Phase III** City workshops and final approvals.

**Board:** G. Powell mentions the Arbor Day Proclamation was on Consent agenda for April 7, 2026. in the forthcoming Advisory Board Ordinance, reference was made to “Florida Friendly Landscaping” in the Tree Board portion of the ordinance.

D. Kerner mentions, on behalf of Richard Stowe and the Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group who has invited the Friends of the Everglades to speak at the City Library on May 27, 2006 6:00 pm.

if there is interest in joint sponsorship of the event. **Staff:** mentions more information would be needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### A. Discussion of Dates/Topics/Locations for 2026 and 2027 Lectures

**Board:** G. Powell mentions Extension Arborist, John Roberts, cannot meet in May as she had hoped. A suggestion for scheduling speakers during the months of January, March and May of 2027 was made. All seemed to agree that those months would be good as it would not be too hot at those times. It may be in the interest of the Board to schedule a speaker just prior to a scheduled tree giveaway. Suggestions for speakers include experts in: landscape design, trees, ground covers, butterfly/ wildlife/ bee gardening, sustainable yards and plants for South Florida; native plants and best irrigation practices. The Board wants to ensure a good turnout for a speaker.

### B. Discussion of Tree Giveaway- Details of successful CRA giveaway model

**Board:** The CRA held one give away with Community Greening. Would it be possible to have a joint event with the CRA and monies from the Tree Restoration fund? An increase in the tree canopy is the goal. The CRA sponsored two events with roughly 13K in donations for the first and 10K for the second event with other co-sponsoring groups.

**Staff:** The Restoration Fund has recently been the recipient of several large penalties. Discussion of the street trees, Dahoon Hollies, as they did not have a clean trunk causing visibility concerns. Public Works insisted on male trees without berries, a portion of the monies came from the Tree Restoration Fund.

**Board:** Interest in replicating the CRA tree giveaway project.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### A. Brochures - Web Version

**Staff:** The Mayor commented the Brochure could have included tree removal processes.

**Board:** The Board advocates for tree planting, not removal. The brochures are excellent. A distribution plan for the brochures via the fourteen neighborhood associations; realtor offices and other public city offices are a suggestion. Craig Frost is overall neighborhood association representative, a Board member will contact him for assistance.

**Board:** What needs to happen for continued designation of Tree City? **Response:** Everything is in place and will include the planting at the park.

**Board:** Question about how the Landscape Planner search is going? **Response:** It's an ongoing effort. There is a new Principal Planner who will soon be in attendance at these meetings.

A brief discussion of the renovation and whether the staff has access to the public. With two trailers; one housing Business License, Customer Service and Code Compliance; the other smaller module with Planning Zoning Historic staff of nine persons. It is challenging at times due to the tight quarters. Typically PZHP staff offers on-call hours only as staff is, as a matter of course, researching, writing staff reports, preparing for Board review, reviewing code and reviewing permits among other responsibilities . The City has been pushing for staff to be

available and physically accessible to the public at all times. The hope is for PZHP to be back in the building sometime near the end of summer.

Board:- Inquiry about the beach restoration; the Board had an assessment that will be forwarded to the Commission. Request that staff keeps Board apprised of progress with the Landscape Code re-write.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3-minute limit)** None

**ADJOURNMENT 7:05 PM**