



## NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Planning Division

### MEMO

#### Environmental Advisory Board

**To:** City Commission

**Thru:** Peter Lear, CPA, CGMA, City Manager

**Thru:** Frank Miles, MPA, Neighborhood Development Services Director *for FM*

**Thru:** Nicole Galehouse, AICP, Interim Planning Manager *NG*

**From:** David Jayroe, MS, Environmental Tech/Staff Liaison *DJ*

**Date:** November 8, 2018

#### EAB Meeting November 5, 2018, 6:00 PM

This memo is to inform the City Commission of the Environmental Advisory Board's consensus recommendations from their November 5, 2018 meeting when they discussed action items from the May 2017 Commission Work Session on Tree Protection Regulations.

Commission Action Items	EAB Recommendations
<i>There was a consensus to direct staff to work on a tree harvesting policy with a survivability provision.</i>	Consensus to support this action and recommends including "transplanting" to avoid misconception. The EAB agrees transplanted trees would be in addition to the existing minimum 35% canopy requirement.
<i>There was a consensus to direct staff to redefine the language pertaining to shaping and cutting of trees.</i>	Consensus to support this action if pertaining to survivability. The board requested more information on the survivability provision.
<i>There was a consensus to direct staff to remove the requirement in Section 45-5(c) that a Development Order must accompany a land clearing permit; and that a resident may remove trees as long as the 35% tree canopy requirement is intact.</i>	(1) Consensus to NOT remove the requirement in section 45-5(c) because it would encourage clearcutting.  (2) Consensus to keep the 35% canopy in the City, when this is not achievable on standard lots canopy (trees) can be planted in public areas.

<p><i>There was a consensus to direct staff to provide recommendations to incentivize tree preservation including a review of unintended consequences.</i></p> <p>Same as above action.</p>	<p>(1) Consensus to determine a regulatory means to leave trees in the 10-ft rear easement of properties to provide shading and a wildlife corridor, and that leaving the trees would count towards the 35% minimum canopy requirement. Additionally, provide an incentive for developers keeping trees.</p> <p>(2) Consensus to find incentives for tree preservation, such as using the tree fund as a way to buy and sell trees to the community at low costs or providing incentives for parking lots designed to allow trees to mature and thrive.</p>
<p><i>There was a consensus to direct staff to gather Commission direction from today's meeting, schedule a community meeting to discuss all the ULDC environmental chapters, incorporating the information gathered at today's meeting.</i></p>	<p>Consensus for the EAB to be included in any future discussion and policy changes to the ULDC environmental sections as part of their responsibility and goals.</p>
<p><i>There was a consensus to direct staff to make minor changes in the Tree Ordinance, clearly state the reasons for the change, and that they are corrections, not a re-write of the Ordinance.</i></p>	<p>Consensus that the EAB caution against any administrative changes to the Tree Protection Regulations other than typographical and grammatical corrections.</p>

There was a consensus of the board's other concerns:

- Planting and saving native species of North Port
- Ensuring tree islands in parking lots or bioswales
- Mitigating heritage trees inside footprint of house
- Ways to incentivize existing homes to plant trees
- Reduce minimum diameter at breast height (DBH) of trees requiring mitigation to greater than or equal to fifteen inches
- Get the youth involved, perhaps a tree planting event
- Better collaborative effort with private volunteers regarding planting and survivability of trees
- After construction of a home, how is survivability of planted trees accounted for?
- Include tree protection regulations and 35% canopy requirement in "Welcome to North Port" packet