



Orange County Sustainability & Resilience Trees & Lands Sub-Committee MEETING MINUTES

WebEx Virtual Meeting
Thursday, July 30, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jenifer Rupert
John Guziejka
Melvin Pittman
Nicole Kennedy
Byron Knibbs
Kenneth Peach

Additional Board Members

Yara Watson
Chris Castro
Theo Webster
Resham Shirsat
Madeline Almodovar

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Jeff Benavides
Lori Forsman
Jane Gregory
David Jones
Jim Ward
Alicia Baxter
Jacques Werleigh

SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alex Pressier
Monica Socarras
Tommy Boroughs

Digital Archive complete with presentation materials, handouts, and meeting audio/visual recording are posted at this website:

<https://ocfl.app.box.com/folder/118864067713>

Call to Order

At 9:30 a.m., Jeff Benavides called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Public Comment

There was no public comment submitted for this meeting.

Review of Fact Sheets

Briefly discussed the information provided about current status and comparison programs for other cities and counties.

Overall Recommendations:

- While this effort is internally focused, the Committee feels that this plan needs to at least highlight the Community related programs and initiatives so that the messaging and strategy is clear. Our Home For Life updates would potentially be forthcoming in 2021.
- Orange County needs to make sure this Action Plan works for the future not just the current administration.
- Orange County needs to narrow down the key global commitments it would like to commit to as a result of this effort.
- Explore OCCC Carbon offset program.

List of guiding principles on how employees can operationalize the relevant goals and actions of this Plan – keep it in front of the education and workforce development.

Goals and Actions

- Green space and natural lands acquisition strategy needs to sync with the conservation lands owned by others like DEP, Nature Conservancy, Conservation Florida, Trust for Public Lands, local land Trusts Winter Park and Orlando, private owners, development permits, etc.
- Land use and zoning coordination across and within municipalities for quality of life development.
- Utilize carbon points system from UCF and align with “right tree right place” “Arborist” public works list and species selection and diversity.
- Tree Canopy Goal # 2 needs to add community benefit. Prioritize to include community access and equity considerations. Tree Initiative to prioritize based on needs and specific attention to equity for low income areas that need better canopy, access to nature to help with social connections, health wellness, and energy efficiency and reduction of heat island affects.
- Design guidelines for joint use amenities and access to nature on county properties.
- 10 Minute Walk stretch goal to help influence county real estate selection and planning
- Increasing access to walking trails around current and future county facilities.
- Tree canopy updates need to be every 5 years.
- Orange Code and Future Land Use: Alignment of access to nature and human health into policy or code development.
- Increase food access and urban agriculture design guideline
- Coordinate with UCF tree protection and mitigation strategy
- Look to technology for tree inventory
- Prioritization of key gap areas for paved trails canopy, planning and design. Risk analysis, budgeting and maintenance.
- Initiative or program around enhancing bio-diversity at our parks and well key design guidelines for urban biodiversity opportunities. Certified Wildlife National Wildlife Federation.
- Coordination with Apopka on birding park around Lake Apopka
- Can we make the Magnolia Park Education Material align with the Six Pillars?
- Application of Wekiva/horizons/parks development to county wide.
- Set tree planting goal based on current baseline: inventory of parks per year, IFAS, Public Works, Green PLACE.
- Creation of a fund with a non-profit third party for Adopt-a-Land and Adopt-a-Tree.

Parking Lot Ideas for Later

- Strategic alignment of residential planting goals with County wide goals.
- Cattle pasture or old farmland restoration program into carbon sinks or restored conservation areas.
- Alignment of tree planting strategy with Winter Park corridor and connectedness plan.
- Utilize software like Arbor Pro and i-Tree and Tree Plotter.
- Resident crowd sourcing tree inventory
- How can we create options for access to nature if you can’t plant trees? Green walls, pocket parks, gardens, rooftop gardens.

At 11:30, Jeff Benavides adjourned the meeting.

External Committee Co-Chair

Date

Prepared by Lori Forsman

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