



**LANDSCAPE SUBCOMMITTEE
LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION ADVISORY BOARD (LDRAB)**

DECEMBER 12, 2012 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Prepared by Barbara Pinkston

On Wednesday, December 12, 2012, the Landscape Subcommittee held their second meeting at the Vista Center, Room VC-2E-12-Conference Room, at 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida.

**A. CALL TO ORDER
9:40 am**

1. Introduction of Members, Staff and Interested Parties

Subcommittee Members: Michael Zimmerman, Joanne Davis

Industry: Chuck Mucciolo, Gladys Digirolamo, Rick Elsner, Collene Walter

County Staff: Maryann Kwok, Barbara Pinkston, Rodney Swonger, George Galle, Monica Cantor, Joanne Keller, Andy Hertel, Michael Rawls

2. Additions, Substitutions and Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions, substitutions or deletions to the agenda.

3. Motion to Adopt Agenda

Agenda adopted

B. STREET TREES

1. Power Point Presentation

Rodney Swonger and George Galle presented and narrated the presentation which included: the history of planting requirements; current (amended ULDC language) examples of damage to infrastructure caused by street trees; and the use of root barriers.

2. Review Examples of Plans Submitted to Land Development

The group reviewed plans that had been submitted pursuant to current ULDC.

3. Possible Solutions to Address Infrastructure Impacts

Root Barriers

Mike Zimmerman advised that the climate and water table in South Florida results in faster growing vegetation. Root barriers should not be looked at as a long term solution as they are only good for 10 – 15 years, that more emphasis should be placed upon the type of tree planted, and that the use of root channeling should also be considered.

Chuck Mucciolo indicated that it would be difficult to utilize root channeling as the trees are installed after the infrastructure has been installed.

Plant List

Additional discussion ensued regarding the "Plant List" that was created in 2008. It was suggested by the group that more flexibility be included to allow different trees that may be more appropriate for the different locations. Joanne Davis concurred that the appropriate trees should be installed and that other types of trees should be considered. She further advised that growers should be advised of changes to the "allowable" trees so that they have sufficient time to research costs and growth requirements. However the decision should ultimately be left up to the developer to determine what would work the best. The group also discussed whether or not it would be possible to police the planting of the trees to ensure they are properly installed. The group agreed that it would not be possible for Staff or the Developer / Industry to be present when Landscapers install each tree.

Chuck Mucciolo indicated that Developers often have issues with homeowners that want, but do not have, trees in their front yard due to setback requirements or the location of underground utilities.

Amending Conditions of Approval and Waivers

It was suggested that the Zoning Director be given the authority to act on behalf of an HOA seeking relief from planting requirements due to infrastructure damage, by submitting the request to the BCC. This would limit the processing costs incurred by the HOA that would be assessed to the homeowners within the development. It was also suggested that criteria be established to allow developments approved prior to 2011 be able to apply for waivers regarding the appropriate placement of street trees.

4. Agenda for Next Meeting

At the next meeting scheduled for February 20, 2013 will focus on street trees utilized on individual residential lots, commercial parcels, and tree spacing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am