



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

**FEBRUARY 20, 2013 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

**Prepared by Barbara Pinkston**

On Wednesday, February 20, 2013, the Landscape Subcommittee held their third meeting at the Vista Center, Room VC-2E-12-Conference Room, at 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida.

**A. CALL TO ORDER  
9:35 am**

**1. Introduction of Members, Staff and Interested Parties**

**Subcommittee Members:** Michael Zimmerman, David Carpenter

**Industry:** Joanne Davis, Chuck Mucciolo, Gladys Digirolamo, Collene Walter, Mike Miller, Doug Fash, George Gentile,

**County Staff:** Maryann Kwok, Barbara Pinkston, Rodney Swonger, George Galle, Monica Cantor, Jon Powers, Carl Bengston, 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. RECAP FROM 12-12-12 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

The group briefly reviewed the items that were discussed at the last meeting.

**C. TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE FAMILY LOTS**

**1. Power Point Presentation**

Rodney Swonger and George Galle narrated the presentation which included a historical overview of planting requirements for single family homes and PUDs. Maryann Kwok clarified the manner in which planting requirements for the overall PUD should be calculated.

**2. Subcommittee Objective**

The subcommittee objective for this meeting was: To determine whether or not planting requirements for single family lots are too stringent. Collene Walter suggested that the scope of the objective be amended to include reference to the entire PUD. The group concurred. The revised objective for this discussion is: To determine whether or not planting requirements for single family lots and entire PUDs are too stringent.

**3. Recommendations**

The group discussed a number of options related to ensure lots are not excessively landscaped:

- Place easements in streets instead of on the property to allow a greater planting area
- Utilize the Division of Forestry standard requiring 40% canopy cover
- Base the number of trees required on the area outside of the proposed building footprint
- Relax restrictions on the use of native trees
- Allow more flexibility related to minimum height requirements
- Allow trees of varying heights provided they total the maximum height required for the lot
- Allow smaller / different trees
- Allow a certain percentage of small trees to be utilized to meet planting requirements
- Allow trees installed in water management tracts to count towards the minimum requirement for the adjacent lot
- Allow fruit trees to be utilized towards the tree requirement

#### **4. Additional Discussion**

- Chuck Mucciolo presented graphics projecting how much the canopy cover would expand once the required trees matured. He also advised that this would ultimately cause problems for the homeowners as well as in recreation parcels.
- The group discussed the desire to have more design flexibility when preparing landscape plans for individual lots to avoid a “cookie cutter” appearance. The group also discussed the issue of homeowners removing trees without replacing them. Most homeowners are not aware of the requirement for tree removal permits.

#### **5. Agenda for Next Meeting**

At the next meeting scheduled for April 17, 2013 the agenda will be continued focusing on recommendations to allow flexibility in planting requirements, and review of the Preferred Plant List. Staff will research landscape provisions for municipalities located in neighboring municipalities and prepare a comparison table for discussion. In addition committee members were asked to forward any pertinent information related to the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am