



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

APRIL 17, 2013 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Prepared by Jon Powers

On Wednesday, April 17, 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
9:32 am**

1. Introduction of Members, Staff and Interested Parties

Subcommittee Members: Michael Zimmerman

Industry/public: Gladys Digirolamo, Collene Walter, George Gentile, Drew Martin

County Staff: Maryann Kwok, Barbara Pinkston, Rodney Swonger, George Galle, Monica Cantor, Jon Powers, Carl Bengston, Joanne Keller, Laura Sanagorski

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 2-20-13 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Collene W. indicated that the minutes need to be revised to clarify that the Subcommittee did recommend (a general consensus) on different requirements for landscape buffers, internal streets, recreation pods, etc. and should move away from overall tree calculation, i.e. based on the gross area of residential sites. Staff concurred that those minutes should be updated to incorporate Collene's comments.

C. TREE PLANTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE FAMILY LOTS

Barbara P. presented a comparative table depicting single family residential lot planting requirements in several jurisdictions of Florida such as Palm Beach County (PBC), Broward County, Martin County, the Village of Wellington, and Coral Spring. Maryann explained that staff has completed surveys of different government jurisdictions, some of their calculations are based on gross lot area and some based on net or pervious areas of a lot.

Maryann said for discussion purposes, staff used a single family $\frac{1}{4}$ acre lot with a 2500 s.f. building to compare tree and shrub requirements of each jurisdiction.

The preliminary determination was that PBC requirement of 1 tree per 1250 square ft. in Urban/Suburban Tier may be too high. Subcommittee suggested to deduct building coverage for tree calculation. Gladys G. also reminded us that SFD lots usually have pools, patios, and driveways that are non pervious areas. Gladys G. is going to provide the Zoning Division with some examples of sites showing canopy trees in single family and zero lot line lots, when trees

are at 12 feet height or at a mature stage, to determine the number of trees that could fit in typical parcels. Collene W. has concern about percentage of shade trees per Lot. Mike Z. has concerns about tree size at maturity, define difference between shrubs and woody ornamentals and define what a tree is. Laura S. has concerns related to planting around natural areas. She also mentioned about the lack of diversity in the planting schemes, and recommend mixing varieties to establish diversity.

Public comments – Drew M. said there should be no changes to current code related to native tree requirements. Staff explained no change to native percentage.

D. Recommendations by Subcommittee

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

- Deduct building coverage before calculation. Use Pervious/net area for planting.
- Provide example of calculations for Zero lot line versus standard lots square footage.
- Determine whether to round up or down percentage of trees.
- Include shrubs on chart.
- Consider mature size of trees, small, medium and large.
- Use a Recommendation list instead of Preferred list.
- Don't limit types of trees – establish diversity.
- Minimum number of trees per lot instead of Maximum.
- Plant the right tree in the right place.
- Plant list – consolidate website to include other links, Collene W. suggested PBC State College , Dr. George Roger's list. Laura S. said U.F. has a good link. Staff will compare these links, and see if PBC list would need to be upgraded.
- Subcommittee prefers to see Code language revised for 60% from preferred plant list.
- Link for tree list in technical manual.

E. Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for June 20, 2013, Staff will provide a summary and recommendations on the SFD lot tree requirements, and a review summary of the Preferred Plant List. Subcommittee indicated the agenda/minutes of last meeting were not sent out to them, want staff to remind them of next meeting, and send agenda/minutes out in a timely manner.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 am