



**City of Key West  
Tree Commission Meeting  
February 11, 2008  
510 Greene Street, Old City Hall, 5:00 PM  
Minutes**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

**Tree Commissioners:**

  x      **Julio Barroso**  
  x      **Danilo Crespo**  
  x      **Gregory Curry**  
  x      **Mimi McCoy Grantham**  
  x      **Sandra Lee – Chairperson**  
  x      **Rudy Molinet**  
  x      **Neils Weise**

**Staff:**

  x      **Larry Erskine**  
          **Asst. City Attorney**  
  x      **Cynthia Domenech-Coogle**  
          **Urban Forestry Program Manager**  
  x      **Gladys Abreda**  
          **Administrative Secretary**

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**(a) Additions/Changes:**

Ms. Sandra Lee, discuss Botanical Gardens at end of meeting

Ms. Cynthia Domenech-Coogle wanted to add for discussion the Tree Ordinance revisions.

**4. Presentations**

**(a) Urban Forestry Program Manager Report**

Ms. Cynthia completed 3 inspections between the last three commission meetings ensuring that replacements have been implemented: Parrot Key, 1600 Whalton street with 101 inches in total; required only 47 inches, to include a Gumbo Limbo removed on city property - 11 inches replacement was required which was planted in the right of way. Silver Buttonwood and Silver Palms were planted as replacements in the right of way. Arbor Day planting; Pocket Park at Flagler and 6<sup>th</sup> Street - 99% native, Woman's Club donated \$3,100; Pocket Park at Patterson and 8<sup>th</sup> Street - 100% of plants are native, Sunset Rotary Club donated \$490.00 toward the planting, City of Key West provided funds for remaining balance.

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Ms. Cynthia said that after the Pocket Park on Patterson Street is finished she wants to make a presentation to the City Commission for both parks so they can see the money has been put to good use.

Mr. Rudy asked if the Conch Harbor House has done anything on the project, Ms. Cynthia said that the soil in the retention pond was contaminated and was to be cleaned out (they are behind one month) The project will be finished on March 01, 2008,

Mr. Molinet asked Cynthia about City of Key West planting trees to replace the trees that were removed at city hall. Cynthia stated they will replace with native plants upon completion of generator installation.

Mr. Julio Barroso announced that on 03-07-2008 KES will inaugurate the Gato Village Pocket Park at 2:30 p.m. and it is located at Calais and Louisa Street.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

(a) **May 14, 2007**

(b) **September 10, 2007**

(c) **October 15, 2007**

(d) **January 14, 2008**

Domenech-Coogle requested tabling until next month

**6. Resolutions Tabled Items: none**

**7. Resolutions:**

(a) **508 Amelia Street, Jackie & Dennis Benner:** Represented by Nick Downs, Tarzan Tree Service. Remove Spanish Lime.

**Approved**       **Denied**       **Table**       **Further Action**

Nick Downs from Tarzan Tree Service said there are 3 Spanish Lime trees, one is next to the rear house, and the second and third tree is in the same planting space between the original house and rear structure (house). He took pictures inside the rear house and the floor has some cracks. Ms. Lee asked how long the homeowner had owned the house, Mr. Nick Downs said since 2001 which meant that the trees were already there. Prior homeowner added the structure behind the trees. Mr. Molinet stated that before he makes a decision he wants to know if this addition was built with permits, he wants a structural engineering report, because sometimes it is not the trees affecting the house. Tree Commissioners could not see the trees base covered by decking. Ms. Lee said that she saw some recent cuts on the biggest tree. Mr. Carter said he is the resident in rear house and groundkeeper for the homeowner and he will remove the deck for (tree commissioners) to view, Mr. Julio Barroso asked if we have jurisdiction on structure matters. Mr. Erskine stated the conflict with tree and structure is covered by Tree Protection Ordinance

**Notes:** Motion to table until the Building Department Report, Rudy Molinet, second Mimi McCoy-Grantham.

b) **804 Ashe Street, John & Louise Corbett:** Remove Spanish Lime

**Approved**       **Denied**       **Table**       **Further Action**

Ms. Sandra Lee mentioned that 3 years ago she did some landscaping for the owners of this house but she does not have any association at this time and wanted it to be on record. Ms. Louise Corbett said that the Spanish Lime is growing at the corner of the house and lifting the house about 6 inches due to the root system. Ms. Louise said that she owns the other side of property and she thinks she will be able to plant all 17 inches of diameter,

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Ms. Cynthia will provide a list of native plants and discuss with Ms. Corbett number of trees on her property. Ms. Cynthia reminds everyone to pick up permits before trees are removed.

Notes: Motion to approve Neils Weise, second Gregory Curry

**Replacements:** 17 inches diameter, FL#1, native canopy trees, planted on site.

**(c) 717 Simonton Street, Trinity Presbyterian Church:** Represented by Shelly A. Sands, Remove (1) Gumbo Limbo and (1) Poinciana tree.

**( x ) Approved      ( ) Denied      ( ) Table      ( ) Further Action**

The Pastor's father, Mr. Percy Graham, represented and is the groundskeeper for the church, said that the Gumbo Limbo is in the middle of the parking lot and desires to put in a handicap parking space. The Royal Poinciana is between the parsonage and fellowship hall and big branches are falling on the roofs of both buildings.

Notes: Motion to approve Rudy Molinet, second Julio Barroso

**Replacements:** 24 inches diameter, native canopy trees, Fl #1, to be planted on site.

**(d) 300 Petronia Street, Jim Marsh:** Represented by Larrie Busloff, Leaping Lizard Tree Service. Remove (1) Royal Poinciana.

**( ) Approved      ( ) Denied      ( x ) Table      ( ) Further Action**

Mr. Larrie Busloff of Leaping Lizard Tree Service represented owner, Royal Poinciana is not in great shape, there were a lot of branches on the roof, Mr. Larry Erskine stated he knew about this situation, they cannot start the demolition if they did not apply to the landscaping Department first, The Building Department will not issue the permit. Ms. Sandra Lee said the Building Department, is issuing permits that damages trees without permits from the Tree Commission. It will be an endless problem, and this was not an emergency, we need to know where the trees are we need to know the footprint of the building, the landscaping, also we need to know if there is conflict, Mr. Larry Erskine said that he knew that there are a couple of projects that need landscaping approval and they have not applied yet, for instances there is an ordinance that before you apply to the building department you need to contact the landscaping department, in this case the homeowner is asking to remove the tree then to demolish the house; Ms. Lee asked to tabled until owner can provide the landscaping plan.

Notes: Motion to Table Rudy Molinet, second Julio Barroso

**(e) 630 Dev Street, Heidi Gold:** Represented by Jay Fairbank. Remove (1) Mahogany Tree

**( x ) Approved      ( ) Denied      ( ) Table      ( ) Further Action**

Mr. Jay Fairbank said that Mahogany tree has broken sidewalk next to driveway on the street, it's a hazard to the house and people; Cynthia said roots from tree are under sidewalk; the tree is in decline and next to carport. The city needs to repair sidewalk and approached the owners of the tree for removal. Tree is on private property, there are insects boring into the trunk, has a reduced canopy.

Notes: Motion to approve; Rudy Molinet, second Neils Weise

**Replacement:** 1 native canopy tree of choice, minimum 8', Fl #1, planted on site.

**(f) 1125 Duval Street: La Te Da:** Represented by Dan Kramer, Dan's Tropical Tree Service.

Remove (1) Poinciana Tree.

**(x) Approved      ( ) Denied      ( ) Table      ( ) Further Action**

Mr. Kramer, from Dan's Tropical Tree Service said Poinciana Tree is a hazard and is damaging the roof and suffered damage from hurricanes. The tree is leaning on the building.

Notes: Motion to remove, Neils Weise, second Julio Barroso

**Replacements:** 9.1 inches in diameter, Fl #1 native canopy trees of choice, planted on site.

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## 8. Administrative Hearing:

### (a) 1010 Windsor Ln. St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church

Represented by Zackary Bentley/Manuel Garcia. Tree work with out permits

Approved       Denied       Table       Further Action

Mr. Erskine and Ms. Domenech-Coogle and will meet with attorneys at Saint Mary's Church.

Notes: Motion to table Mimi McCoy Grantham, second Neils Weise

## 9. Champion Tree Nomination

The Tree Commission agreed to put the Champion Tree nomination on the city's web site, the nominee has to comply with the requirements. (height, canopy, caliper, species, condition, etc)

## 10. Staff and Emergency Approval Permits

(a) **729 Truman Ave. Dean Carlsen.** Remove (1) Coconut Tree replace with (1) native palm of choice Fl #1, 4 Feet minimum Permit # 5112

(b) **1309 Petronia Street, Raymond Sneath.** Remove (3) Veitchias Palms replace with (3) native palms of choice Fl #1, 4 feet minimum. Permit #5113

(c) **1418 Von Phister Street, Elaine Alea:** Remove (3) Poinciana Trees.

## 11. Discussion Items:

Ms. Sandra Lee said the mayor has cancelled their meeting 4 times and she has cancelled once, she said she will have a meeting tomorrow, Ms. Sandra hopes she would have a once a month meeting.

Ms. Lee said the Botanical Garden Society, since 2006, is suppose to work with Tree Commission, have accountability, and inform Tree Commission of what they have done in the past year.

There has been no update or minutes from meetings held at Botanical Gardens: Mr. Gregory said that he attended 2 to meetings Ms. Lee knows that Botanical Garden has requested to Planning board to build a pond. We need more tracking, and an inventory. The trailer they have put next to the children's outdoor classroom should have never been allowed to stay. There is an ordinance that trailers can not be in UH designation,.

Tree Ordinance changes, Ms. Cynthia announced that she would like to have a workshop in the city attorneys office, Sandra Lee asked Cynthia about new ideas and standards.

Mr. Rudy Molinet discussed a liaison from City Commission to the Tree Commission and suggests Commissioner Johnston be the liaison, she is interested in preserving trees,

Cynthia stated she has replanted the Jose Marti monument for the upcoming ceremony.