



**City of Key West  
Tree Commission Meeting  
May 10, 2010  
510 Greene Street, Old City Hall, 5:00 PM  
Minutes**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

**Tree Commissioners:**

  x      **Danilo Crespo**  
  x      **Gregory Curry-Co Chair**  
  x      **Mimi McCoy Grantham**  
  x      **Ashish Soni**  
  -      **Niels Weise-Chairman**  
  x      **Debra Yates**  
          **Staff:**  
  x      **Ronald Ramsingh**  
          **Asst. City Attorney**  
  x      **Cynthia Domenech-Coogle**  
          **Urban Forestry Program Manager**  
  x      **Gladys Abreda**  
          **Administrative Secretary**

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**(a) Additions/Changes:**

Staff requested consolidation of items 7-f, 7-g, 7-h and 7-m to be represented by Mr. Kenneth King/Golden Bough Tree Services; item 7-b tabled requested by homeowner and 7-e adjustment to application: instead to remove 6 Spanish Lime trees to remove 9 Spanish Lime trees.

**Motion to approve Mr. Ashish, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham.**

**4. Presentations**

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

Staff discussed Flagler Avenue project

**(b) City Attorney Report: na**

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## 5. Approval of Minutes

- (a) January 11, 2010
- (b) January 25, 2010, Special Meeting
- (c) March 08, 2010
- (d) April 12, 2010

Motion to approve minutes for January 11, 2010 Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham

Motion to approve minutes for January 25, 2010 Special Meeting, Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham

Motion to approve minutes for March 08, 2010 Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham

Motion to approve minutes for April 12, 2010, Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham

## 6. Resolutions Tabled Items:

- (a) **11 Pierce Lane, Pam Kraskewicz:** Represented by Larrie Busloff/Leaping Lizard Tree Service. Remove (1) Strangler Ficus.

Approved     Denied     Tabled     Further Action

Notes: Mr. Busloff described tree leaning toward house, literally encasing staircase, and in poor condition.

Staff concurred.

No Public Input

Motion to approve, Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Mr. Crespo Fl #1; amendment to motion, OR monetary mitigation, Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Mr. Crespo. Replacement: 23.2 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site or monetary mitigation of \$150.00 per inch  $23.2 \times \$150.00 = \$3,480.00$ .

## 7. Resolutions:

- (a) **1500 White Street, Linda Aselin:** Represented by Larrie Busloff/Leaping Lizard Tree Services. Remove (2) Mahogany trees.

Approved     Denied     Tabled     Further Action

Notes: Mr. Brandon Dimando and Mr. Larrie Busloff/Leaping Lizard Tree Service represented homeowner, Mr. Busloff described trees in hazardous condition.

Staff concurred further describing hazardous condition: larger tree uprooted leaning at 45' angle, sun scalded to the point of large decay columns from the base of tree into lead and scaffolding branches with 3' to 4' of included bark in trunk. Easternmost Mahogany is very small growing under canopy of larger tree completely flat top and one sided toward east.

No Public Input

Motion to approve Mr. Soni, second McCoy-Grantham.

Replacement: 34.5 Caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site or monetary mitigation at \$150.00 per inch,  $\$150.00 \times 34.5 = \$5,175.00$ .

- (b) **1909 Staples Ave. Leonela Gonzalez:** Remove (1) Spanish Lime tree.

Approved     Denied     Tabled     Further Action

**Cont. Pg. 3 Minutes 05/10/10**

**Notes:** Homeowner requested item tabled.

No Public Input

**Motion to table Mr. Soni, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham.**

- (c) **526 Rose Lane, Victoria Leigh Weaver:** Remove (1) Spanish Lime tree.

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

**Notes:** The homeowner described many other trees on property; this tree does not allow the other trees sun, besides the damaged it has from past hurricanes. Ms. Weaver also discussed tree on property line with neighbor Walter Price. Mr. Price submitted an authorization letter for tree removal. Letter on file.

Staff discussed poor condition of tree.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Soni, second McCoy-Grantham.**

**Roll to call: Ms. McCoy-Grantham (no), Ms. Yates (no), Mr. Crespo (yes), Mr.**

**Curry (yes), Mr. Soni (yes) – Motion passed**

**Replacement: 14.2 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

- (d) **1208 Watson Street, Donald & Heidi Golightly:** Remove (1) Mahogany tree.

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

**Notes:** Ms. Golightly reported that the tree was ruining her ornamental cement, lifting the house and the roots are impacting all the pipes under her house, and the neighbor's foundation.

Staff disagreed with root pruning since tree is already leaning towards neighbors' house.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham.**

**Replacement: 15.9 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl#1, to be planted on site.**

- (e) **417 Margaret Street, Craig Amato:** Remove (9) Spanish Lime trees. Represented by Craig Reynolds/Craig Reynolds Landscape Architecture.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Reynolds discussed the new landscape of natives and noted the owners wish to have off street parking.

Staff concurred with request stating trees were still small but in poor condition, and poor growing conditions due to their close proximity to each other. Staff also noted the completion of the prior replacement of 152.7 caliper inches.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Crespo, second McCoy-Grantham.**

**Replacement: 27.3 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, to be planted on site, Fl #1.**

- (f) **1609 Patricia Street, Lynn Kephart:** Represented by Kenneth King/ Golden Bough Tree Services. Remove (1) Gumbo Limbo and (1) Mahogany tree.

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

**Notes:** Mr. King discussed decayed and poor condition of both trees.

Mahogany tree was uprooted in '04-'05 hurricane season.

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Staff concurred.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Mr. Crespo.**

**Replacement: 15.4 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

- (g) **4115 Eagle Ave, Debra Flynn:** Represented by Kenneth King/Golden Bough Tree Services. Remove (1) Gumbo Limbo tree.

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

**Notes:** Mr. King discussed this small tree growing immediately next to concrete wall and next to foundation of home.

Staff concurred also stating not transplantable due to proximity to wall and home.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham.**

**Replacement: 5.3 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

- (h) **1007 Watson Street, Theresa Morris:** Represented by Kenneth King/Golden Bough Services. Heavy maintenance and branch removal of (2) Hong Kong Orchid trees.

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

**Notes:** Mr. King discussed tree growing on roof and only wishes to remove those branches impacting roof.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve heavy maintenance, Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Ms. Yates.**

- (i) **Truman Annex/Admirals Lane Pool, Truman Annex Master POA:** Represented by Sterling Christian.

Remove (2) Coconut palms, and (8) Alexander palms.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Christian discussed reasoning behind the palm removals. A new fence needs to replace the old as it is non compliant with current codes. Also to allow more sun light on to the pool deck. Currently fence height is a safety issue. Mr. Christian discussed the opposition from the immediate neighbors concerning the shade and beauty of the palm trees.

Staff read 9 letters for the record.

**Motion to deny by Debra Yates, quoted ordinance Sec. 110.328. Motion failed for lack of second.**

**Motion to table until June meeting to allow TAMPOA and opposition to agree, Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Mr. Soni.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Curry (yes), Ms. McCoy-Grantham (yes), and Mr. Soni (yes)**

**Mr. Crespo (no) Ms. Yates (no); Motion passes.**

- (j) **1209 Truman Ave., Kenneth Maly:** Represented by Dan's Tree Service. Remove (1) Ficus tree.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Cramer discussed tree lifting the house.

Staff concurred.

**Cont. Pg. 5 Minutes 05/10/10**

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Soni, second Mr. Crespo.**

**Replacement: 4 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

**(k) 1404 Olivia Street, Colby Fisher:** Remove (1) Ficus tree.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Fisher requested the removal of (1) Blolly tree (tree miss identified by applicant) wishes to install fence at perimeter of front yard, has a child 2 years old, tree makes mess and would like to plant natives.

Staff discussed Keys natives and tree being protected by ord. 110-253. Specially protected tree,

Ms. McCoy-Grantham discussed good condition of tree and building fence avoiding tree; It is a great little shade tree and very unique.

No Public Input

**Motion to deny removal of the tree; Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Ms. Yates.**

Staff informed Mr. Fisher he has 10 days to appeal the decision to City Clerks Office.

**(l) 1404 Olivia Street, Colby Fisher:** Remove (1) Mahogany tree.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Fisher discussed condition tree.

Staff discussed condition; 5' stump destroyed by storm events, recommended no replacement.

No Public Input

**Motion to remove with no replacement, Mr. Crespo, second Mr. Soni.**

**(m) 1501 Georgia Street, Susan Jones & Richard Eaton:** Represented by Kenneth King/ Golden Bough Services. Remove (1) Breadfruit tree.

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

**Notes:** Mr. King discussed condition of tree as a result of storms in '04-'05, tree is in decline.

Staff concurs.

No public Input

**Motion to approve Ms. McCoy-Grantham, second Mr. Soni.**

**Replacement: 8.5 caliper native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

**(n) 3200 Duck Avenue/Spalding Court/Casa de Meredith, Samuel's House:**

Represented by Donald Craig/The Craig Company and Ms. Elizabeth Newland. Landscape Plan approval.

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

**Notes:** Ms. Newland described landscape plan to transplant (1) Mahogany, (1) Gumbo Limbo and (2) Coconut palms, remove (1) Mahogany, (1) Satinleaf and (1) Orange Geiger.

Staff concurs

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Crespo, second Mr. Soni.**

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**Replacement: 27.8 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

- (o) **831 Johnson Lane, Craigie Sucoop:** Represented by Scott Montgomery/Native Landscape design. Remove (2) Sapodilla trees.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Montgomery discussed trees impacting a historic structure and poor condition of trees. Discussed needed repairs to historic structure.

Staff discussed largest tree: has a cable through trunk at approx. 7', topped, and storm damaged branches including uprooting in past. The second tree most northern of two is leaning toward structure at approx. 45 degrees, topped, poor branch attachments and lifting historic structure.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham.**

**Replacement: 23.6 caliper inches native canopy trees of choice, Fl #1, to be planted on site.**

- (p) **526 Louisa Street, John Mahoney:** Represented by Amy Hills. Tree replacement Mitigation.

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

**Notes:** Mr. Mahoney discussed lack of space on property and would like to monetarily mitigate for 13" of replacements.

No Public Input

**Motion to approve Mr. Crespo, second Ms. McCoy Grantham.**

**Replacement: 13 caliper inches donated in monetary mitigation at \$150.00 per inch, 13 x \$150.00 = \$ 1,950.00.**

**8. Administrative Hearing: na**

**9. Champion Tree Nomination:**

- 10. Budget:** Staff discussed the budget for the next budget year, '10-'11. Asst. City Attorney Mr. Ramsingh determined the item on the agenda needs to be specifically noticed as "approving the budget". As a result the item will be heard on the June 21, 2010, agenda.

- 11. Discussion Items:** Discussed ordinance changes to educate employees concerning arboriculture, and CEU's. Discussed other board application fees to then consider Tree Commission application fee. Mr. Ramsingh discussed ordinance and fund use.

**12. Staff and Emergency Approval Permits:**

- (a) **824 Thomas Street, Edward Burr:** Remove (2) Coconut palms. Replace with (2) native palms, 4' minimum, Fl #1. **Permit #5496.**
- (b) **1424 Whalton Street, Bill Southmayd:** Remove (1) Coconut palm. Replace with (1) native palm, 4' minimum, Fl#1. **Permit #5497.**
- (c) **531 Frances Street, Jim McCulloch: Emergency.** Remove (1) Spanish Lime tree. Replace with (1) 8'-10' native canopy tree of choice. **Permit #5498.**
- (d) **508 Margaret Street, Robert Richardson: Emergency.** Remove (1) Avocado tree. Replace with (1) 8'-10' native canopy tree of choice, Fl#1. **Permit #5506.**

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- (e) **1800 Atlantic Condo Association, Candy Verduff: Emergency.** Remove (1) Gumbo Limbo tree. Replace with (1) 8'-10' native canopy tree of choice, Fl #1. **Permit #5507.**
- (f) **209 Ann Street/220 Simonton LLC:** Remove (1) Chinese Fan palm and (1) Washingtonia palm. Replace with (2) native palms, 4' minimum, Fl #1. **Permit #5508.**
- (g) **1200 Whitehead Street, City of Key West:** Remove (1) Christmas palm. Replace with (1) native palm, 4' minimum, Fl #1. **Permit #5510.**

**Adjourned, Mr. Soni, second Ms. McCoy-Grantham, 7:35 p.m.**