



Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement
In-Person Meeting Agenda
February 13th, 2024 (11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)
3629 Queen Palm Dr. Tampa, FL, 33619

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement (TBACE) hosted by the Hillsborough County. The following active members were present and signed in:

Larry Hoffman	Hillsborough county	Angelina Johnson	City of Tampa
Kyonne Goodman	City of Tampa	Erik Tine	Hillsborough County
John Carrion	City of Tampa	Kevin Parker	Hillsborough County
Doug Allen	City of Temple Terrace	Jason Zalva	Hillsborough County
Laurie Smith	City of Temple Terrace	David Cansler	Hillsborough County
Christine Zien-McCombs	Hillsborough County	Lisa Byington	City of Clearwater
Robert Horne	City of Pinellas Park	Mark Still	City of Clearwater
Joseph Spann	City of Pinellas Park	Allen Watson	Hillsborough County
Arthur Bork	Pasco County	Shea McDowell	Hillsborough County
John Spicuglia	Pasco County	Ismael Gonzalez	City of Tampa
Quentin Joiner	City of Tampa	Kimberly Barkman	City of Largo
John Stephens	City of Clearwater	Antonio Costeira	City of Largo
Craig Corr	Pasco County	Nikki Jackson	City of Largo
Stefan Burghardt	City of Clearwater	Shane Rank	City of Largo
Yusef Touray	City of Clearwater	Tom Wooten	Manatee County
Brian Simon	City of Clearwater	Kelvin Albritton	Manatee County
Greg Dixon	City of Clearwater	Robert Johnson	Manatee County
Vicki Sudduth	Pasco County	James Wagner	City of Oldsmar
Sergio Grillo	City of Pinellas Park	Guy Carter	Hillsborough County
Wayne Rasmussen	City of Tampa	David Jones	Hillsborough County
Carmen Marcano	City of Tampa	Shelby Brown	City of Clearwater
Florentino Rodriguez	City of Tampa	Barbara Riley	City of Tampa
Laura George	Hillsborough County	Terry Converse	Hillsborough County
Nicholas Cox	City of Tampa	Joe Gross	Hillsborough County

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1135

TBACE President Doug Allen called the meeting to order at 1135.

2. APROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the 12.12.2023 TBACE minutes by Shelby Brown, and a second by Christine Zien-McCombs.

3. TRESURERS REPORT: \$5,688.35

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report, and a second by Christine Zien-McCombs.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A motion to amend the bylaws to add Citrus County, and a second by Shelby Brown.

6. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

Introduction:

Christine Zien-McCombs took stage and introduced Joe Gross. Joe Gross took stage and described "issues with trees as code enforcement officers.

Topics:

1. Invasive and exempt species

Some trees are native, existed prior to European settlement. Non-native trees are new to the area and have no issues with environment. Invasive trees are non-native and cause adverse impacts. Exempt trees are not protected in anyway.

2. Melaleuca

Government has spent millions of dollars to resurrect the everglades. Some trees are used as "chemical warfare." Australian pine trees adapt well to sandy and salty soil and is not truly a pine. Previous Florida Statute established that it was illegal to grow. The Florida invasive council has "invasive plant list." Joe Gross talked about partial list of exempt trees. Joe Gross stated that University of Florida is the state resources for trees.

3. Protected trees

Trees generally measured by DBH. Trees are important because we are breathing today due to trees. Trees increase property values. Hillsborough county has a tree matrix. Street tree are protected, and everyone has to have street trees. Within wetland setbacks pretty much everything is protected. Pruning standards, described "lion's tales," only foliage on top. Windstorm pull on limbs. Over pruning is effectively the removal of tree. Most jurisdiction subscribe to industry, ANSI, and have a whole booklet on proper pruning.

4. Deciduous trees

Trees that have their leaves fall off. Common trees: Bald cypress, Crape Myrtle, Winged Elm, Red Maple, Sweetgum, Sycamore. Pine trees are deciduous. Are palms deciduous new growth of palms "spear leaf." Joe Gross showed examples of trees from previous real cases and stated that they're cited under their nuisance code. They have to be irreversibly damaged and cause an effect on neighborhood. Laurel Oak are least the structurally sound. Vertical cracks are worst situations for Arborist to encounter. Joe Gross showed an example of friction failure. Soil in settings can get saturated, storm winds cause trees to come down. Joe showed an example of "Man made" cuts around the root of the trees.

5. *Mobile Home Park Regs*

Talked about the mobile home park. Mentioned about a FS 723.023 “Mobile homeowner’s general obligations.”

6. *Snags and habitat*

When it starts to threaten neighboring property that “we” get involved. Snags give critters a home.

7. *Collapsed trees.*

Joe said that whoever gets a collapsed tree, cleans it up. If it falls on neighbor’s property, the neighbor has to clean it up.

8. *State Law Preemption*

FS 163.045 Tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property. Legislature kind of “threw it out there,” don’t need a permit to take out tree and don’t need to replace it. Tampa had famous case when a company took out oaks on mobile home park zoned commercial. Residential property defined as single family detached building. Tree risk assessments determine the unacceptable risk.

9. *ISA, international Society of Arboriculture.*

Joe said that being a “Board certified master arborist” is the gold standard.

10. *Encroaching Limbs and Roots.*

Handbook of Florida fence and property law: Trees and landowners. If the branches or roots are healthy, then the landowner with the tree located on his property is not liable for damage caused by those branches or roots. The adjoining landowner may trim back the branches or roots as he desires up to property line. Joe presented the website “Ask IFAS” FE962. Joe displayed visual images of roots that ended at drip line. Joe talked about “Air spade.” Joe said that roots want loose soil, full of organic material and soft. Root hits the structure and runs parallel with structure.

Question: *Is it expensive to maintain trees?*

Answer: *live oaks one of the more prized trees, live oaks really are protected, structure very sound, not a bad idea to prune dead wood once every 5 years. Insurance companies issue letters if they are too close to the house.*

Questions: *Oak trees on ROW are planted in communities, are you required to trim the overhang*

Answer: *Street trees are required to keep a street tree. If it must come out pruning part of roadway belongs to public works (Hillsborough County)*

Question: *Is there a number of trees required on ROW.*

Answer: *If there is corner lot it depends on the frontage and approval from subdivision. Public work new standard. Widening parkways.*

Presentation START: 1140

Presentation END: 1225

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Doug Allen announced that Jillian Nocella would be going to Tallahassee to advocate for Code Enforcement Officers to classify for high risk / specialty risk pension. Doug reminded everyone of the TBACE items and Membership renewals.

Secretary: None

Treasurer: None

Vice president: Christine Zien-McCombs briefly spoke about and described “Operation Code Vet” to the audience.

President: Thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Hillsborough County for hosting the October meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

John Carrion

Secretary,

Tampa Bay Association of Code Enforcement

February 16th, 2024