

URBAN TREE CANOPY VISIONING WORKSHOP

August 29, 2001

Anne Kolb Nature Center

Hollywood, Florida

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Urban Tree Canopy Visioning Workshop was convened by the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection and facilitated by the South Florida Regional Planning Council Institute for Community Collaboration. Held on August 29, 2001 at the Anne Kolb Nature Center, the day-long meeting was attended by over 75 representatives from Broward County's local governments and private sector businesses.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the condition of the county's urban tree canopy, learn about and reach consensus on the need to develop a sustainable urban forest in Broward County, and begin the development of a plan with identified action steps to attain and maintain the urban forest in the future.

After receiving information about the current state of the county's urban tree canopy and learning that the county's tree canopy is currently insufficient and not sustainable, workshop participants worked on identifying the issues of main concern.

The five top items selected by the workshop participants were:

Increased education and information

Increased policy maker support and involvement

Increased funding and tax incentives

Increased tree ordinances, implementation, and enforcement

The need to develop a greening plan for arterials, streets, open spaces, and continuous greenways countywide.

Participants then met in small groups to discuss what steps should be taken in each item category to create and maintain a sustainable urban tree canopy in Broward County.

With these conclusions the workshop objectives had been met and after concluding remarks and thanks from the workshop sponsor, the meeting was adjourned.

MEETING DETAILS

WELCOME

The Workshop was opened by Sean McSweeney, *Coordinator, Broward Urban Forest Initiative*, who thanked everyone for coming and introduced the Honorable Lori Nance Parrish, *Broward County Commissioner*. Commissioner Parrish welcomed everyone and expressed her gratitude at seeing so many in attendance for such an important cause. She told the group about her childhood in the area and how important nature and trees have always been to her. She then turned the meeting over to the Coordinator of the Workshop, Sean McSweeney. Mr. McSweeney thanked the Commissioner and introduced other dignitaries who were in attendance and thanked both the Ann Kolb Nature Center for the use of their facility and Florida Power and Light for helping to sponsor the refreshments for the day.

A list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Mr. McSweeney then turned the meeting over to the meeting Facilitator, Janice M. Fleischer, of the South Florida Regional Planning Council Institute for Community Collaboration.

AGENDA REVIEW, DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the meeting Objectives and Agenda for the day. The Objectives were:

- ◆ Review the current condition of Broward's tree canopy
- ◆ Learn about the positive effects of a sustainable tree canopy
- ◆ Discuss the qualities of a sustainable urban forest
- ◆ Brainstorm the elements of a perfect urban forest
- ◆ Hear about a community success
- ◆ Action planning and prioritizing

A copy of the Objectives and Agenda are attached as Exhibit B.

She then outlined the day's discussion guidelines (Exhibit C) and facilitator responsibilities (Exhibit D). She explained that input would be solicited in a variety of ways during the day. Comment cards which could be turned in at the end of each meeting were made available to everyone, her fax number and email address were displayed and an "Idea Parking Lot" (large flipchart sheets left blank for anyone to write on) was placed in a prominent place for anyone to write down any thoughts they had about the day or the process in general. All written comments received, whether on Comment Card, by email, fax or on the Idea Parking Lot would be incorporated into the Report of Proceedings to be prepared and distributed to all attendees as well as being posted on the Council's Website. General comments received are at the end of this Report.

Ms. Fleischer introduced staff from the SFRPC and Broward County who would be assisting throughout the day.

She then turned the meeting over to Sean McSweeney and Victoria Morrow, *Senior Planner, Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection* for a presentation.

TREE CANOPY IN BROWARD COUNTY

Mr. McSweeney began his presentation by telling the participants that most municipalities in Broward County had signed a Resolution (Exhibit "E") in support of expanding the urban tree canopy.

In their presentation, among other items, Mr. McSweeney and Ms. Morrow described the current state of Broward's Tree Canopy, explained the benefits of a tree canopy in general and talked about the types of trees to be used according to placement.

At the end of their presentation, the Facilitator asked if the participants had any questions. There were no questions but the following comments were made:

- ◆ Trees are being removed from national highways as a perceived hazard.
- ◆ Outdoor ads are changing tree guidelines.
- ◆ We should think about and assess the use/need of exotics versus native plants. Some exotics can be beneficial and fit the needs of an area better than our natural vegetation.

Ms. Fleischer then announced a break.

THE QUALITIES OF A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST

Upon returning from Break, the participants heard short presentations from the following panelists:

Terry Mock, *Director, Champion Tree Project International* (See Exhibit F for article authored by this panelist)

Dr. Mike Orphanedes, *Broward County Extension Education Division*

John Harris, *President, Earth Advisors, Inc.*

Before beginning his presentation, Mr. Harris posed the following questions to the participants (questions are followed by the answers received):

1. What is a "sustainable" urban forest
 - a. Easily maintained
 - b. Self-perpetuating
 - c. Longevity

2. What is found in an urban forest?
 - a. Trees
 - b. People
 - c. Wildlife
 - d. Diversity
 - e. Community

At the end of the three presentations, the Facilitator asked for questions and comments.

Questions posed:

1. What are the goals of an urban forest?
2. Define an urban forest.
3. Who will be responsible for enforcement countywide?
4. Would county enforcers have the power to go into the community?
5. What is the economic advantage of having trees? (in the right place)
6. What are the advantages to homeowners?
7. Do you think the Florida grades and standards would exclude diversity?
8. Are there cities that are undertaking a major role in establishing an urban forest?

Comments received:

1. There is a need for a comprehensive plan.
2. Public involvement is key.
3. Create and enforce ordinances to preserve what we have.
4. Any plan must incorporate the process as well as the trees (i.e. inhibit destruction and ensure maintenance).
5. Classes are working in the field.
6. Alert residents about license ordinance for tree trimmers.
7. There is a need to address the economic advantages to property owners of having trees (clean up and view).
8. We need to know what other communities are doing.
9. There is a need for grass roots education on proper pruning-outreach programs.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

The Facilitator asked the participants to answer the questions: "What would Broward look like in your vision if it had a perfect urban forest? The participant answers follow:

1. There would be an average of 40% canopy.
2. Improper tree practices/abuse would be stopped.
3. All major and secondary arterials would have shade trees.
4. Aesthetics in canopies.
5. More shade for people.
6. Right tree in the right place.
7. Understanding what a canopy is and its value.
8. Allowing species diversity.
9. Arbor canopy over all residential sites.
10. Current county code would be 2 trees per yard.
11. Enforcement of ordinances to preserve existing hammocks.
12. Age diversity for trees.
13. Underground utilities.
14. All municipalities adopt same code for acceptable trees.
15. Urban reforestation affordable across economic boundaries.
16. Tree maintenance on city owned property would be a priority.
17. Continuous greenways.
18. Community education on ecology.

19. Land Development Regulations-allow flexibility for preservation and creation (of urban canopy?)
20. Flexibility of code requirements for species.
21. Better understanding of tree canopy values to public/ gain input
22. Sales of culled trees eliminated.
23. Canopy paved parking areas by using new soil technologies.
24. Flexibility in setbacks/new vs. old neighborhoods- one rule doesn't work for all
25. More incentives for planting urban forests-owner and cities give plants away.
26. Proper tree assessments for hazardous trees.
27. Upgrade older commercial areas.
28. Building model neighborhoods/ cool communities, green communities.
29. Removal of exotic invasive species/replace with non-invasive and native species.
30. Care for trees like caring for pets.
31. Reward nurseries that grow "good" trees.

Ms. Fleischer then turned the meeting over to Mr. McSweeney to introduce the next speaker.

CITY OF PLANTATION, A SUCCESS STORY

Jeff Siegel, *Landscape Architect, City of Plantation*, spoke to the participants about the success the City of Plantation has had in increasing and maintaining their urban canopy. He made suggestions for the initiation and continuation of the process. A copy of Mr. Siegel's materials was provided to all participants and is attached as Exhibit "G"

The Facilitator then adjourned the meeting for lunch.

ACTION PLANNING I AND PRIORITIZING

At this point in the day, participants were given instructions on working in small groups. Six groups were formed. In each participant's packet was a worksheet posing the question: "What are the things that need to be done to bring your vision to reality?" Each group was provided a staff Facilitator to assist them in working efficiently. Participants were instructed to answer the question individually, then the group as a whole contributed ideas as the Facilitator recorded the action items. Following this group input, each participant was given 5 dots and instructed to place one dot by each of five items the group had listed reflecting their individual ideas of which five items should be a priority. After all dots were placed by the items, they were counted and tabulated. For each group the tables below indicate the items listed and the number of votes (dots) they received:

GROUP ONE: Facilitator: Terry Manning, SFRPC

ITEM	DOTS
Develop plans and goals	5
Continue free tree giveaway	3
Master plan for cities	1
Continue memorial tree program	0
Support from city government officials	3
Community support	5
Better quality nursery stock	3
Develop shared vision among various planning disciplines	2
Funding	3

ITEM	DOTS
Condominium code education	0
Highly educated city staff	1
Develop an education/information network	5
Ordinances that work	2
Develop a redevelopment plan for existing properties	0
Community landscape award	0
Flexibility with consistency in ordinances	0
CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design)	0

GROUP TWO: Facilitator: Carole McConnell, Broward County

ITEM	DOTS
Master tree canopy plan (40%)	0
Public education and public relations	5
Model ordinances and enforcement of codes	6
Plan for major arterials and secondary street trees/open spaces and continuous greenways	5
Inventory evaluation	2
Create Boards (review board, code enforcement,) supported by City Commissioners with fines, penalties, that go into a tree trust fund	4
Coordination of all aspects of land development and redevelopment	5
Increase quality of horticulture and maintenance practices	3
Master plan for funding	5

GROUP THREE: Facilitator: Carlos Gonzalez, SFRPC

ITEM	DOTS
Intergovernmental Coordination (SFWMD, DCA, FDOT)	7
Public education and awareness about tree canopy, tree care and pruning	8
Standardized enforcement across municipalities	2
Ordinances that will provide for the sustainability of trees (example: parking islands)	4
Ordinance to address tree canopy preservation	0
Initiative to replace canopy loss	0
Enforcement of tree trimmers for proper pruning/hold tree trimmers responsible for improper pruning	7
Fund a comprehensive urban forest plan	8
Method to redress past errors (fix errors)	3

GROUP FOUR: Facilitator: Toni Peyton, Broward County

ITEM	DOTS
Culturally sensitive program to educate the public (like recycling)	4
Regulate commercial development to include minimum greenspace	2
Standardize information from experts/educators	5
Leave money out	0
Consistency in county codes	1
Provide training and equipment to the public	2
Integration in municipalities of buildings as templates	0
Educators appropriating dollars for educational programs, etc.	1
Making trees available to homeowners	3
Incentive program to growers and suppliers who are involved	5
Put funding into what was discussed here today	0
Opportunity for all stakeholders to be involved in a hands-on, constructive way	1
Study to show the best areas for corridors, wildlife and greenways	0
Educational programs for public and private businesses	1
Realization of best trees and plan for removal	0
Get support from elected officials and legislators	5

GROUP FIVE: Facilitator: Ann Richards, Broward County

ITEM	DOTS
Better understanding of public at large	6
Grass roots movement	1
Concentrate on positives for basics	0
Adopt flexible standards and guidelines/uniform and flexible county-wide ordinance	4
Adopt minimum requirements for residential properties	1
Maintenance standards and budget	6
Education of politicians and administration	0
Funding successful marketing campaign	0
Enforcement	3
Recognize importance of forestry and redevelopment	0
Increase community outreach and education	0
Incorporate exotics into canopy	2
Removal of invasive exotics	1
Better planning standards	0
Better coordination among affected agencies	0

ITEM	DOTS
50% rule in older areas	7
County provide assistance to jurisdictions in mapping and assessing resources (i.e. GIS tools)	4

GROUP SIX: Facilitator: Jeff Halsey, Broward County

ITEM	DOTS
Education program (public, private, etc.) schools	5
Listen to public input, find out their value of tree	3
Unified codes toward same goal	1
More county funding	3
More policy maker involvement in urban forestry issues	2
Adequate planting spaces in ordinances	3
Require municipality commitment	1
Planning for sustainable ecosystem	0
Create variability of needed plant materials/industry must produce plant sizes needed	1
Use county GIS/establish restoration target areas	1
Tax incentives for implementing the vision	6
Better state/county/local coordination of urban forest initiatives	2
Each community develop canopy master plan	0
Change ordinances to require implementation of a vision	3
Promote and generate stewardship and follow through	0
Bring FDOT on board with the initiative (vision)	4

After each group had shown their preferences by assigning the dots, the top five in each group were posted on a provided flipchart. The flipcharts containing the top five items from the six groups were hung side by side along a wall in the meeting room so the participants could see the work of all the groups and begin to consider items that might be combined before a final prioritization exercise was done.

The five top items in each group were:

GROUP ONE:

1. Develop plans and goals
2. Develop education/information network
3. Support from city government officials and community
4. Funding
5. Better quality nursery stock

GROUP TWO:

1. Model ordinances and enforcement of codes
2. Public education and public relations

3. Plan for major arterials and secondary arterials, streets, trees, open spaces and continuous greenways
4. Coordination of all aspects of private and public land development and redevelopment
5. Master plan for funding

GROUP THREE:

1. Standardized enforcement across municipalities for planting, removal and trimming.
2. Public education and awareness about tree canopy care and pruning
3. Fund a comprehensive urban forest plan
4. Plan with the SFWMD and coordinate with local governments, FDOT (Intergovernmental coordination).
5. Ordinances that will provide for the sustainability of trees.

GROUP FOUR:

1. Standardize information from experts and educators
2. Get support from elected officials and legislators
3. Incentive programs to growers and suppliers to be involved
4. Culturally sensitive programs to educate the public (like recycling)
5. Make trees available to homeowners

GROUP FIVE:

1. 50% Rule in older areas
2. Better understanding (education) of public at large
3. Maintenance standards and budget
4. Adopt flexible standards and guidelines county-wide
5. County to provide/assist jurisdictions in mapping and assessing resources (i.e. GIS tools)

GROUP SIX:

1. Increased county funding and tax incentives for implementing the vision
2. Education program to teach the vision/Listen to feedback
3. Bring FDOT on board with the vision
4. Ordinances for implementation of the vision (including adequate planting space)
5. More policy maker involvement on issues in urban forestry

After reviewing the above items, the participants worked with the Facilitator in combining items. The following combinations were made:

Item	Group	No.
Develop education/info network	1	2
Better understanding (education) of public at large	5	2
Public education and public relations	2	2
Education program to teach the vision-Listen to feedback	6	2
Culturally sensitive programs to educate the public (like recycling)	4	4

This group known collectively as: **Education/Information**

Item	Group	No.
Support from city/government officials and community	1	3
Get support from elected officials	4	2
More policy maker involvement in urban forestry issues	6	5

This group known collectively as: ***Policy maker support/involvement***

Item	Group	No.
Funding	1	4
Increased county funding and tax incentives for implementing vision	6	1
Master plan for funding	2	5
Fund a comprehensive urban forest plan	3	3

This group known collectively as: ***Funding and tax incentives***

Item	Group	No.
Better quality nursery stock	1	5
Incentive program to growers and suppliers	4	3

This group known collectively as: ***Industry incentives***

Item	Group	No.
Plan with SFWMD, FDOT and coordinate with local governments (Intergov Coordination)	3	4
Bring FDOT on board with the vision	6	3

This group known as: ***Intergovernmental/agency coordination***

Item	Group	No.
Ordinances that will provide for the sustainability of trees	3	5
Adopt flexible standards and guidelines county wide	5	4
Standardized enforcement across municipalities	3	1
Model ordinances and enforcement of codes	2	1
Ordinances for implementation and enforcement of the vision	6	4

This group known as: ***Ordinances/enforcement***

The participants were given 5 votes each. The Facilitator read the item and votes were made by a show of hands. The participants were on their honor to vote only 5 times. The results were tabulated and the top five overall issues were selected. The items and the votes they received in order of prioritization follows:

ITEM	VOTES
Education and information	34
Policy maker support and involvement	33
Funding and tax incentives	30
Ordinances/enforcement	24
Plan for major arterials and secondary arterials, streets, trees, open spaces and continuous greenways	13
Intergovernmental/agency coordination	8
Industry incentives	7
Coordination of all aspects of private and commercial land development and redevelopment	7
Maintenance standards and budget	7
Develop plans and goals	6
Make trees available to homeowners	
Standardize information from educators and experts	1
50% Rule in older areas	0

The top five items overall:

<p>Education and information Policy maker support and involvement Funding and tax incentives Ordinances/implementation and enforcement Plan for arterials, streets, trees, open spaces and continuous greenways</p>
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The next portion of the day was spent in small groups developing action plans for each of the top five items. Each group worked on a separate item. The Facilitator explained the small group guidelines and instructions (Exhibit "H"). Each group was provided with a worksheet and instructed to think through each step necessary to implement their overall subject. The worksheets and results for each group are attached as Exhibits I-M.

The participants worked in their small groups for approximately 1.5 hours, after which time all participants came back together in plenary. Each group reported their results and comments from the full group were recorded.

There were only a few comments. When reporting, the group working on Arterials stated they realized that much of the work that would be required in this area would have to be coordinated with all the other groups (much like funding). The group working on Policy makers indicated they had broken it down into three categories:

Community and Elected Officials for education and motivation
Financial and other incentives
Accountability for Policy Makers

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting then came to an end with Sean McSweeney giving some closing thoughts and thanking everyone for coming and participating so fully. Ms. Fleischer reminded the members to complete their evaluations and turn them in before they left.

The article on "A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability" which was contained in the mail outs is attached hereto as Exhibit "N" as it was not included in the participant packet.

The meeting was then adjourned.

IDEA PARKING LOT AND OTHER COMMENTS RECEIVED

1. Excellent program, power point, and speakers.
2. What would be the perfect tree canopy for Broward County? This was much needed and hopefully action will be taken to implement some of the ideas.
3. Outstanding workshop, now let's make it happen.
4. Very productive. I am anxious to see what action results from this workshop.
5. Enjoyed the day... very informative. Please include me in your correspondence. Simplification of items at end of day is beneficial, but include all of the comments you might find something hidden inside. Speakers were helpful, could have had more discussion time with them and less brainstorming. Appreciate the camaraderie and enthusiastic people that put the workshop on. Very enjoyable. – Matthew J. Doyle, RLA, EDSA, 1512 E. Broward Boulevard #110, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
6. Excellent workshop – bottom line is the funding for a comprehensive Master Plan so we can get the job done ASAP! Please send final report and any future info on workshops of this nature. Vice-Mayor Judy Paul, Town of Davie, 6591 Orange Drive, Davie, FL 33314
7. An excellent, very well organized workshop. I hope there is follow-up on the Broward Urban Forest Initiative which is desperately needed in a county that is over-developed! Laura Ward, Assistant Town Manager, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.