City of Tampa Mayor's Symposium on Community Trees and the Urban Forest

Thursday, June 19, 2008
9 AM – 1 PM
Tampa Convention Center
333 S. Franklin Street, Tampa, FL

Mayor's Symposium Open Forum Responses

Group 1:

1. Storm water credits for tree preservation (research $$)
2. Require more trees for parking lots
3. Best management practices for controlling/ eradicating Brazilian Pepper
4. Bring back city nurseries
5. Better coordination between different planning agencies. Introduce policies to encourage tree preservation.
6. Respect landowner's rights (i.e. taxpayer rights)
7. Teco sponsored education brochures for proper residential planting
8. Exotic invasive species, educate the public and private organizations
9. Retention of existing vegetation for new construction
10. Protection of key watershed areas in Hillsborough County and city
11. Increase diversity of vegetation offered for plantings ordinance
12. Increase roadway planting budget
13. Emphasize economic benefit of tree cover. PR campaign because of canopy potential
14. Solve utility conflicts in the right of way. (HWRA study)
15. Educate the public regarding right vegetation in the right location.
16. Storm hardy tree species
17. Management goal of 10% impervious grounds
18. Strategize to out-compete invasive species with other species

Group 2:

1. Develop educational/ public awareness campaign promotion the benefits of healthy, sustainable urban forests. Public schools (elementary – high school), include the report summary
2. Emphasize importance of proper maintenance and selection of species in right-of-way street tree plantings.
3. Consider new incentives for private land developers to encourage preservation of existing trees and planting of new trees (i.e. reduction of permitting and/or impact fees based on amount of urban forest cover on the development site.)
4. Maintain municipal/urban forester on city staff- by ordinance
5. Develop program to "buy-back" tree parking lot islands and excess impervious area that are too large for current land uses. (i.e. tampa greyhound track, florida mall, k-mart plaza at florida avenue and waters avenue)
6. Reduce heat island effect through improved site development codes, incentives, cost/benefit analysis

Group 3:

1. Movement from single tree management (policy) to urban forest policy
2. Diversification of urban forest species
3. Funding for planting public and maintenance of trees
4. More protection measures for preserving trees within development (better enforcement)
5. Encourage planting tress within heavily urbanized areas (street and parking lots) through tax incentives or regulation
6. Educate public that their trees are part of the urban forest (benefits)
7. Preservation of more natural habitat/ecosystem by land acquisition and or regulation
8. streamline process ease or facilitate the removal of invasive exotic species
9. Create mitigation credit or other incentive for the removal of invasive plant species.
10. Larger tree (technical standards) islands for parking lots
11. Tree advisory board and Public Relation city wide stake holder representative
12. Research into size and quality saving large trees vs. planting smaller ones
13. Trees ------ green infrastructure

Group 4:

1. Importance of shade
2. Incentive program for invasive removal
3. Negative implication of mangrove regulation
4. Trees at schools, educate kids of benefits of trees
5. Vegetative buffer along waterways
6. Life cycle cost of tree management
7. Trees near airports
8. Diversity of species of trees
9. Invasive species – development removal
10. Planting trees does not hinder lawn maintenance
11. Marketing the value of public spaces that currently exist (i.e. Picnic Island, MB Nature Park)
12. Benefit of 1 large tree vs. ## of smaller trees – current regulation prohibitive?

Group 5:

1. Replacement / removal program – Permitting, right tree/ right place- permitting and education recognition of small neighborhood tree efforts
2. Species Diversity- establish guidelines public education of importance
3. Re-development and new development of stricter removal rules and replacement strategy for exotic/ invasive removal program fore private individuals- replacement after removal
4. Code enforcement, lack of proper care of all trees/ improper care/ pruning
5. Protection from construction
6. Detection and mitigation strategy for exotic /invasive plants and animals
7. Partnerships with all organizations to make decisions

Group 6:

Group 7:

1. Registration and licensure of arbor culturist

2. Educate the public
3. Develop exotic removal plan
4. Increase diversity in planting requirements,
5. Educate utility companies
6. Designate canopy streets or neighborhoods
7. Transportation planning
8. Maintain urban forest in most sustainable manner (i.e. diversity)
9. Plant more trees
10. Base replant requirements on canopy not stems

Group 8:

1. Lack of education of specific tree and plant characteristics and requirements in residential areas that in the long-term the growth of these trees will create future infrastructure issues and harm to the tree itself.
2. A stream-lined funding policy to aid residents in replacing the trees that were asked to be removed due to code or natural disasters to preserve the experience and atmosphere of the area
3. Too many resource and energy used to maintain vast lawn that have little beneficial value to citizens compared to urban trees a more flexible policy for alternatives.
4. Engaging, empowering, educating citizens, interest groups and neighborhoods by the government as the solution
5. Lack of knowledge in the public of the benefits of the urban canopy in clean environment (phytoremediation, carbon uptake) residential value and cooling benefits and lack of educating children from the beginning of the value of urban forest with environment and biodiversity.

Group 9:

1. Right plant- right place; damaged sidewalks and road surfaces
2. Proper pruning/ maintenance establishment – Teco
3. Water maintenance, i.e. reclaimed water
4. Climate change need more vegetation
5. Exotic species removal
6. Better way to identify grand trees i.e. oaks
7. Identify trees in decline for tree replacement
8. Proper training/ education i.e. master gardener program- Hillsborough County extension,
9. Age appropriate education
10. Smaller shade trees at bus stops
11. Urban forester for city of Tampa

Group 10:

1. Provision for green roofs in land use categories
2. Increase inches threshold for grand trees (32” to 28”)
3. Provision to ensure the areas are suitable for success of plantings
4. Increase distribution of the types of land uses with canopy
5. Ensure proper aeration of the root zone
6. Public/Private partnership for installation and maintenance
7. Integrate the hydrology study for flooding concerns and cost of improvements
8. Land development code – incentives for green roofs and plantings (ex. Reducing fees

9. Promote innovative construction methods that avoid impacting current canopy
10. Reduce the conflict with utilities at ground and above – policy
11. Educate, educate, educate, everyone
12. Utilize CDBG funds/ Green CDBG fund (next year) – provide mini-grants for youth plantings and neighborhood groups
13. Build in more opportunities for LEED programs
14. Promote and insure diversity of tree species
15. Create a program to eliminate Brazilian pepper from public
16. Connection between the UFORE study and Carbon foot-print information

Group 11:

1. Updating ordinance to address relationships tree health, parking lots design, signage
2. Require licensure of tree service companies and CEU's
3. Incentives for maintaining required and existing trees and landscape
4. Make watershed preservation a higher priority within the city limits- pursue funding for acquisition and improvements
5. Increase communities value of trees
6. Increase dbh inches of trees in the city
7. Concern for loss of tree canopy along Hillsborough river
8. Need to educate community of study
9. Increase penalties for removal of protected trees
10. Loss of canopy due to extreme utility maintenance

Group 12:

1. How to balance private property owner's rights with city's urban forest management
2. More public education (citizens, leaders) on tree values (especially low-income areas)
3. Need to have partnerships with all agencies to have similar goals and thus similar management policies within the city and state
4. Incentives for landowners to maintain green spaces and pervious surfaces
5. Encourage alternatives to maintained grass
6. Change view of urban forestry, as a luxury to a necessity
7. Look at the long term growth habits of tree species we want to plant
8. Funding (lack of and how its used) e.g. replacing trees with sod – right of ways
9. Increase species diversity (in plantings)
10. Why is city protecting camphor tree? – Do we use the resource to remove non-natives or do we use them to plant natives in plantable spaces?

Group 13:

Group 14:

Group 15:

Group 16:

1. Incentives
2. Mitigation- plant species/ permits +8

3. Govern Tree replacement Program 4+6
4. Education of public funding forest
5. Government departments communicating among themselves
6. Community involvement
7. Pro-active tree planting
8. Utilized certified/trained employees within capacity