



City of Pensacola

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

February 4, 2021

2:00 pm

Microsoft Teams/Hagler/Mason

Members Present: Neil Richards, Chair, Blase Butts, Kyle Kopytchak, Katie Fox, Alex Kozmon, Kristin Bennett, Kelly Hagen, P. Jay Massey

Members Absent: Michael Lynch

Others Present: Council Executive Don Kraher, Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

1. Call to Order/Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chair Richards. A quorum was established.

2. Oath of Office—City Clerk

Assistant City Clerk Robyn Tice administered the oath of office to new Board Members Kristin Bennett, Kelly Hagen, and P. Jay Massey.

3. Review of Sunshine, Public Records and Ethics Laws—City Attorney's Office

Deputy City Attorney William "Rusty" Wells provided a brief review of the Sunshine, Public Records and Ethics Laws for the benefit of the new board members, as well as a refresher for the existing board members.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a) December 3, 2020

Member Kozmon moved for the approval of the December 3, 2020 minutes, Seconded by Member Kopytchak. The motion was approved unanimously.

b) January 7, 2021

Member Kozmon moved for the approval of the January 7, 2021 minutes, Seconded by Member Kopytchak. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Introductions with areas of interest/expertise

New members and existing Board made brief introductory remarks, indicating their areas of interest. Member Hagen, lives in Sanders Beach area where there are

environmental issues and concerns with the American Creosote Works site that she's been actively trying to get forward motion on, as well as working with her neighborhood association on improvements to the Tree Ordinance to get some protection added and would like to get more involved and make meaningful changes.

Member Bennett works for an environmental consulting and engineering firm in Pensacola and has a communications degree and law degree. She felt her experience and background would be helpful to add to the Board.

Member Massey indicated his training is in wildlife management, biology, chemistry and bio-chem. His personal passions are wildlife rescue, nature photography. He is an advocate for non car travel. He skates to work and believes in a city that is walkable and bikeable. He is part of Bike Pensacola and is one of the volunteers on the slow ride. He has nature scaping and edible property around his house and is a big accessibility advocate.

Member Kopytchak was appointed as an at-large member. He is a realtor, investing in Pensacola over 20 years. His focus is on the protection of the 12th Avenue tree tunnel.

Member Fox has been on the Board for 2 years. She is a civil engineer and has a passion for environmental concerns and issues.

Member Butts has been doing water treatment for 40 years, mainly to make drinking water safe and wastewater safe so that it can be safely discharged. His interest on the Board is the quality of the water around the bay and stormwater.

Member Kozmon is finishing his first year as an at-large member. His career was in government service where he was able to hone education and experience around organizational management. His interest on the Board revolves around environmental stewardship issues.

Chair Richards background in college was physics, chemistry and biology. The Navy brought him to Pensacola. He earned a solar contractor's license in 1982, and has also been a general contractor. He is retired now and can devote full time to the environment. His interests are certainly solar, then hydrogen and bio char and are his passions for the solution to climate change.

6. Old Business:

Presentation—IPM Plan—Bill Kimball

Chair Richards informed the Board that unfortunately, Bill Kimball was unable to make his presentation today and would hopefully be available at the next meeting. He reviewed the charge to the Board from the City Council and asked Member Fox to provide an update.

Member Fox provided a brief update on the status of the IPM Plan and recommended comments to the plan that were submitted by board members to the Parks and Recreation Department. She does not know if any of the recommended comments were considered by the Parks and Recreation Department and once Bill Kimball gives a presentation on the plan, the Board can ask him if they were considered.

Council Executive gave an explanation about the two different issues—the spraying at athletic fields and the fact that the City did not have an Integrated Pest Management Plan as brought up by Member Fox. The Parks and Recreation Department created the document for the City.

The Board, as a body, has not discussed with Parks and Recreation nor voted on accepting the recommended changes. That was the purpose of having the discussion and presentation with Bill Kimball at today's meeting. In all likely hood, this will probably be a Mayoral item.

Member Kopytchak made a suggestion that the spraying schedule and record keeping log be placed and kept current on-line.

7. Updates from Sustainability Coordinator Mark Jackson

Sustainability Coordinator provided introductory remarks about his background, and brief update on what he is working on, in particular with SustainaBase to gather green house gas emissions into a data base to track by buildings/departments. He gave a brief presentation on the urban forester's strike team survey on the tree damage done by Hurricane Sally to the City's parks and right of ways. The Mayor and staff are putting together a reforestation plan for the parks, making sure not to replace invasive species and putting the right tree in the right place and the best viable tree for that location. He also reviewed the data and value lost per home and loss in tax revenue.

a) Review of Proposed Tree Ordinance

Council Executive indicated that the proposed amendments to the Tree Ordinance were meant to be narrowly focused. There are only a few items intended to be addressed. There is a view to do a more comprehensive look at the entire tree ordinance.

Sustainability Coordinator explained the term “arborist” as utilized in the proposed amendments and the recently passed legislation regarding hazardous tree removal on residential private property. If the Council wants to change arborist to specialist, staff has by no means restricted it to only an arborist. It can be someone who is Tree Risk Assessment Certified.

He also reviewed changes made in Section 12-6-4 – Landscape and tree protection plan regarding notice, posting of signs for two weeks prior to issuance of a tree removal permit, and notification to the councilperson representing the district in which the permit has been requested.

Further discussion occurred on the clear cutting of trees and the exemptions provided to health care facilities.

Comments were also made regarding the loss in value per home and ultimate loss in tax revenue if the City does nothing about replacing the lost trees. Having a tree in your front yard or right of way adds approximately \$7,000 in property value.

Member Kozmon stated there was a fair amount of literature and research that equates mature trees and neighborhoods with aesthetics and tenancy retention for both residential and commercial property. It is really well documented mature hardwoods in the upper stories bring financial value to the neighborhoods as well as other health benefits associated with having access to a mature landscape and nature.

Member Hagen suggested that the Environmental Advisory Board actively organize and be involved when the complete overhaul of the tree ordinance takes place.

Chair Richards mentioned the part in the tree ordinance that talks about the administration of the Tree Trust Fund and planting trees in neighborhoods. The Board has talked about it a lot, but has never come up with a guidance document for the neighborhood associations to request grant fund money from the Tree Trust Fund, with recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Board to the City Council to award those funds. The rest of the Ordinance talks about a lot of other things.

Council Executive reminded the Board that the Planning Board only undertakes what is given to them. The existing Tree Ordinance took over 2 years to take place. It involved many public hearings. Emerald Coastkeepers proposed a new ordinance and process for citizen participation. They were going to hold various charrettes throughout the community to receive feedback from the stakeholders. Then Covid hit and there hasn't been an opportunity to do any of the things proposed by Laurie Murphy with the Emerald Coastkeepers. That document was never reviewed by staff. That would be something that Emerald Coastkeepers would bring back and present to the Planning Board.

In addition, the Environmental Advisory Board has never come up with the process to award neighborhood grants. The Board could never come to an agreement. While the proposed amendment to the Tree Ordinance does have some criteria for the grant program and what it can be used for, an application is needed so that the neighborhoods know what they need to bring forward in their proposal and what constitutes a project. There needs to be checks and balances in the process to be sure that the funds are being spent correctly.

8. New Business:

a) Goal Setting—2021

Council Executive suggested that each member of the Board provide him with a list of their goals for the coming year and he will put out a complete list together for discussion at the next meeting. Along those lines, somethings to consider would be to come up with the application process and plan for use of Tree Trust Fund Grants, possible recommendation to have a comprehensive review of the Tree Ordinance, look at the environmental recommendations contained in the Mayor's Transition Team report and the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report. It would be a better use of time for each member to come up with their list of goals, then the Board could prioritize and create an action plan.

b) Review of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Report
Recommendation for Resolution—Renewable Energy Goals

Chair Richards indicated that he would like the Board to consider, once again, sending a recommendation to the City Council that the City commit to meet a 30% renewable energy target by 2030 for city-owned facilities and operations, with a goal of 100% renewable by 2040.

Further discussion occurred with regard to the proposed recommendation and how to achieve that goal to commit to meet a 30% renewable target by 2030. Recognizing and adopting the goal is first, then how to achieve it comes next. Should the Environmental Advisory Board also commit to helping come up with this Plan? Should it include language to “engage in activities” vs “commit to meet” and then list bullet points 4, 5, 6 and 7 that would lay the groundwork for how that goal could be realized. The city has not made a commitment to this goal. This would be an opportunity for the City Council to push this goal. The Paris Climate Accord set goals. They didn’t come in with plans. They set goals and then developed the plans.

Sustainability Coordinator expressed his concerns about what 100% renewable means. The City owns a Port, an Airport, and a gas company and what does 100% renewable mean to those entities. There are a number of ways to get to the ultimate goal of a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. The Board needs to be very specific and clear on what goal and recommendation they are asking.

Council Executive pointed out that a majority of the recommendations are going to be operational, that fall under the Mayor. At the outset you set the goal, and then the Mayor and his staff will come up with the process and whatever to achieve that goal.

Council Executive indicated that Christian Wagley had completed a speakers form for this item; however, he was unable to reach him by phone.

Member Bennett indicated that she did not have enough information to make a decision on the recommendation—30% of what and is it realistic. She appreciates the work that went into the report.

Member Kopytchak also mentioned that the City was just now in the process of collecting measurement data. Sustainability Coordinator confirmed that he hoped to have a report to present in late summer or early fall.

Member Kozmon suggested an alternate approach of reducing energy consumption and getting to the same place in a different way.

Member Fox stated the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force did spend a lot of time on developing the recommendations and are very knowledgeable about these things and put the appropriate focus in developing the number.

Member Butts agreed. The Board needs to set a goal and start for it.

Chair Richards moved that the Environmental Advisory Board recommend to the Pensacola City Council and the Mayor to commit to meet a 30% renewable energy target by 2030 for city-owned facilities and operations, with a goal of 100% renewable by 2040. Member Kopytchak seconded, for discussion.

Member Kopytchak wanted to stand for the record that he thinks the Board needs to be more concise and offer some assistance on how to get there, but he is not going to stand in the way of pursuing something and allowing them to have some direction coming back. He will support as a goal, in hopes of having something come back to the Environmental Advisory Board. He would rather have more concise language and be more specific.

Member Butts suggested not including the language of 100% renewable by 2040.

Chair Richards offered a friendly amendment to his motion and deleted “with a goal of 100% renewable by 2040” from his original motion.

Member Massey stated he trusts the Task Force Members. We have their recommendations and how to achieve it. This at least gets it to the Council.

Sustainability Coordinator indicated that there have been things the Mayor and the City have accomplished from the Task Force's report. It has not just sat and collected dust.

Council Executive indicated that Christian Wagley had to go to another meeting; however he wanted to wish the new members well and looks forward to meeting them at the next meeting.

Vote was taken on the motion and carried 6 – 2, with Board Members Richards, Butts, Massey, Kozmon, Hagen, and Fox voting in favor; Board Members Kopytchak and Bennett dissenting.

Chair Richards reminded Board members to continue to review the Task Force Report as well as the Environmental Section of the Mayor's Transition Team Report and to send their items to the Council Executive to compile a list of goals to accomplish in 2021.

9. Board Member Comments/Updates, Reports and Announcements:

Member Kozmon reported that he had an opportunity to speak with Holli Pruett, Recycling Educator with the Sanitation Department. They are working on some robust public education programs to reduce contamination in the household and yard recycling streams. If anything comes before the Board on recycling, a better course may be to refer that over to Sanitation. Plans are to meet with neighborhood and homeowners associations on recycling collections and how to reduce contamination in the two collections.

Member Bennett mentioned that she is a former Board Member for the American Water Resources Association, Florida Section and they have grants awards and scholarships. The application period just opened. The deadline is April 15. There is a \$1,000 J. B. Butler science grant for pre-K through 12th grade for educators and environmental educators, water and natural resources related. There is also a scholarship available for a high school senior who is going into a Florida college, undergraduate, graduate or post graduate. Application information is at awraflorida.org.

Member Hagen inquired as to whether the Board is limited to having only one meeting a month.

Chair Richards indicated that the Board could have a special meeting; it would just have to be publicly noticed.

Member Butts reported that during the month of January, 1,935 pounds of trash was picked up from Scenic Highway to Bruce Beach.

Member Kozmon mentioned an exchange he had with the Council Executive regarding the pandemic and Covid issues and asked if there was something that he would like to bring up.

Council Executive indicated where the numbers are now and because we have to meet in person, there is the possibility or a suggestion that the Board could meet less. The rules say that the Board has to meet at least four times a year. If it was this Board's desire, they could technically decide to meet quarterly while we are under this pandemic. That would be a Board decision.

Member Fox mentioned that the County is presently doing a watershed analysis of Carpenters Creek/Bayou Texar along with SCAPE. They are asking for feedback from residents throughout the City who either have knowledge or photos of the water quality or flooding conditions in that watershed. She will find the link to the project and forward to the Council Executive to distribute to the Board.

Chair Richards suggested the Board visit the newly installed Solar Tree located on the corner of Reus and Main Street. Another one is planned for Sanders Beach Community Center. Info is available on Gulf Power's website.

Member Kopytchak indicated he had another meeting to attend and left the meeting.

Member Kozmon mentioned that the Board had glossed over the Covid situation. In light of City Hall being closed to the public and the City being number one in the State, at least it was 10 days ago, he felt it was prudent that the Board consider going to quarterly meetings. **He moved that the Environmental Advisory Board meet on a quarterly basis or as needed to meet the minimum requirements of having four meetings a year. Member Fox seconded the motion, for discussion.**

Comments made by board members included the possibility of doing zoom meetings, how long the Board would meet quarterly, calling special meetings, if needed and how to call a special meeting, limiting contact during exposures. If approved, the next meeting would be in April. Because the Governors Executive Order for remote meetings has expired, there has to be a physical quorum present to conduct meetings. In order to participate remotely, you have to be in an at risk category, be quarantined, have Covid, or live with an individual who is at risk. It can't be for convenience.

Vote was taken on the motion and it carried 5 – 2, with Board Members Butts, Massey, Kozmon, Bennett, and Fox in favor, Members Richards, and Hagen dissenting and Member Kopytchak not in attendance for the vote.

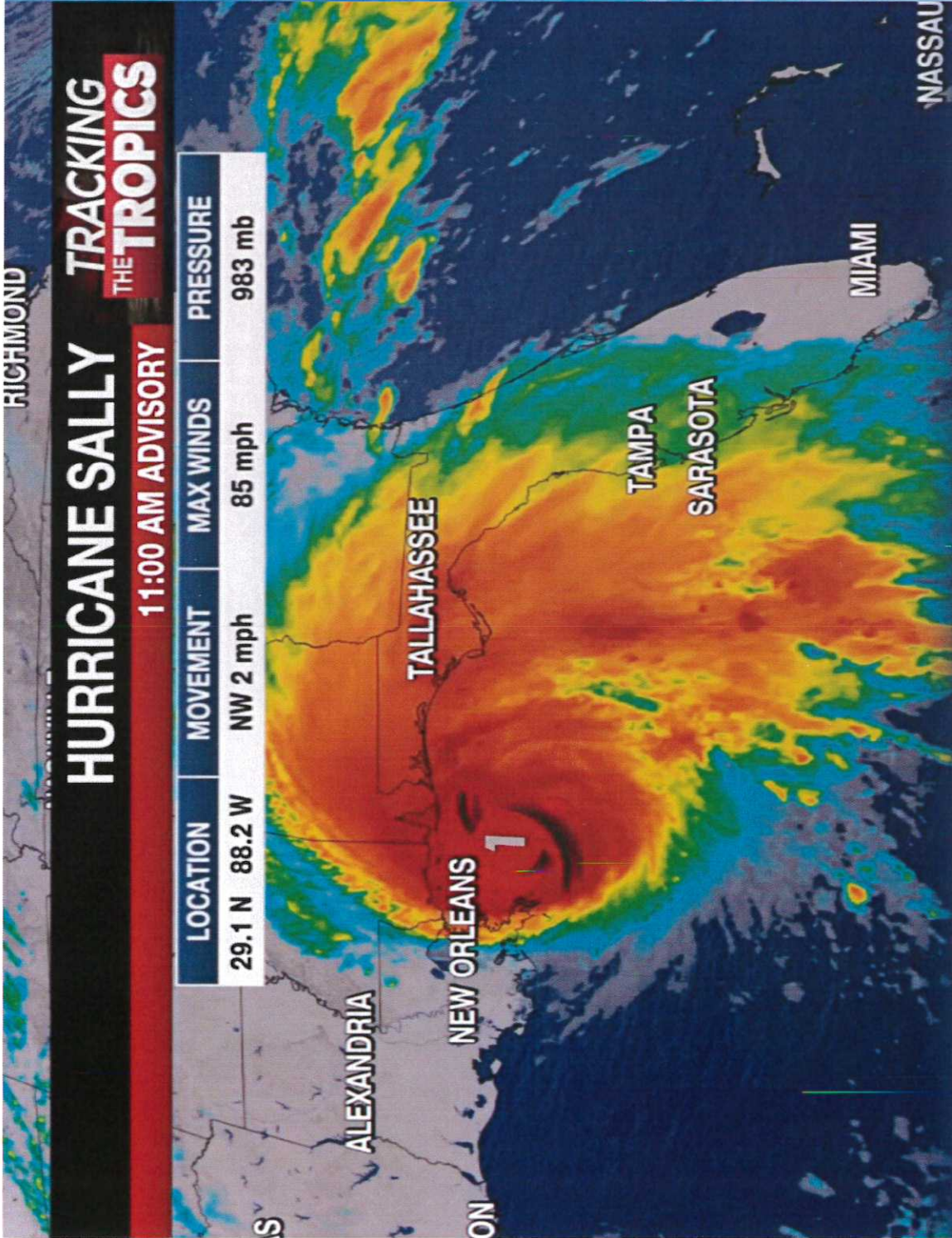
Chair Richards indicated that the next meeting will be April 1, 2021.

10. Public Comments—Open Forum

No one in attendance and no additional speaker forms received.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Hurricane Sally Tree Damage Assessment Performed by FFS UFST

Presented By: Mark Jackson,
Sustainability Coordinator

Urban Forest Strike Team

- **Respond** – Individual tree assessments to support a community's application for FEMA debris management and hazard mitigation.
- **Objective** – Retain as much viable, low risk tree canopy as possible following a natural disaster.
 - Prioritize tree work, Lower communities recover cost, and positively impact residual tree canopy.
- FEMA 325 guidelines
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Part 9 Tree Risk Standard
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) BMP for Tree Risk Assessment

Mitigation Options

APPENDIX A: MITIGATION OPTIONS

The following is a list of the mitigation options and descriptions used for the rapid assessment:

1. Limb Removal (FEMA) – Broken limbs greater than 2" in diameter at the break. Removal of these limbs is reimbursable by FEMA.
2. Tree Removal (FEMA) – Removal of a tree based on canopy or trunk damage. Removal of these trees is reimbursable by FEMA.
3. Windthrow Removal (FEMA) – Removal of trees due to excessive lean or root plate lifting. Removal of these trees is reimbursable by FEMA.
4. Stump (FEMA) – Residual stumps requiring removal or flush cutting. Removal of these stumps is reimbursable by FEMA.
5. Inspect (Non-FEMA) – This option is for trees that do not require immediate attention but may in the future. This is often used for trees with pre-existing defects.
6. Restorative Prune (Non-FEMA) – This option is for non-FEMA reimbursable trees with significant crown defects that can be mitigated or improved through proper pruning.
7. Remove (Non-FEMA) – Damaged trees that require removal, but do not fit into the above FEMA categories.
8. No Action (Non-FEMA) – Identifies trees that do not require immediate action to ensure public safety. These trees did not incur significant damage as a result of the storm, or the risk has already been mitigated. Many of these trees may benefit from corrective pruning during their scheduled maintenance cycle to promote tree health and structure.



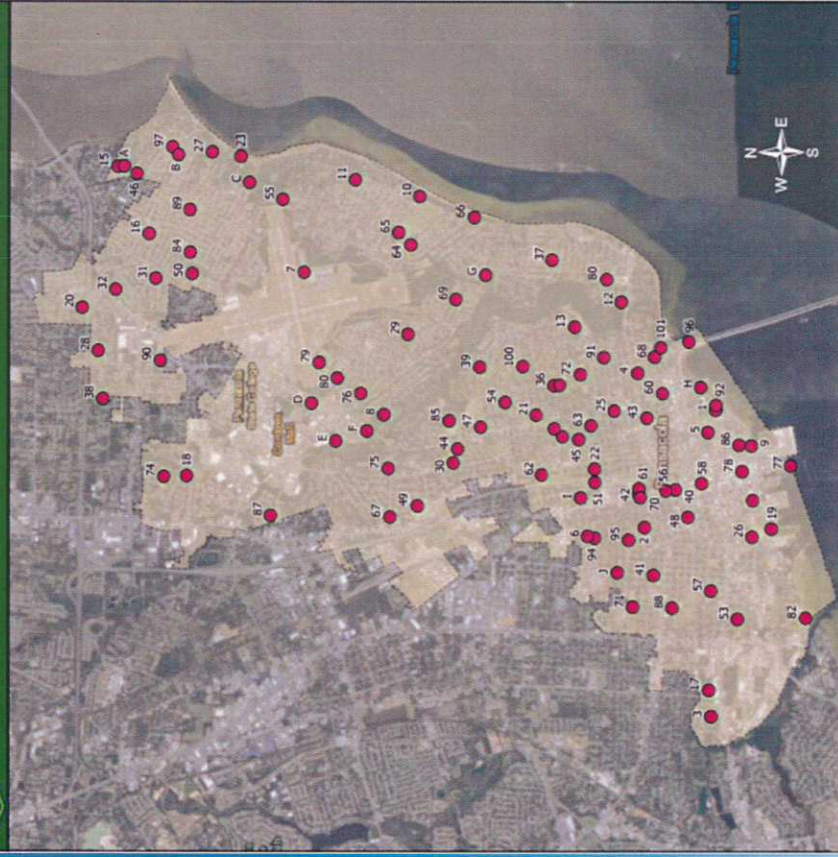
A structurally compromised tree is assessed (Tree Removal - FEMA) by Task Specialists Greg Marshall and Conrad Wysocki in an Escambia County park.

Inspected Areas



URBAN FOREST STRIKE TEAM
HURRICANE SALLY - 2020

Escambia County
City of Pensacola



URBAN FOREST STRIKE TEAM
HURRICANE SALLY - 2020

Escambia County
City of Pensacola



Data & Value Lost

- National Avg. of property value increase provided by parks with trees within a ½ mile radius is 15% of the properties value.
- ~206 trees were removed from parks within the City of Pensacola.
- Using GIS we determined that ~23,500 are within a ½ mile radius of City parks.
- An estimated average number of trees lost in each park would be ~10%.
- Average home price in July 2020 \$240,000.

Math

- $15\% \times \$240,000 \times 10\% = \$3,600$ loss in value per home.
- $\$3,600 \times 23,500 = \$84,600,000$ total home value lost $\times 0.79\%$ (property tax) = \$668,340 loss in tax revenue.

COMMON NAME	STUMPS	REMOVE	PRUNE	INSPECT	TOTAL
Maple		8	6		14
Birch, River			3		3
Catalpa		1			1
Pecan	1	4	5		10
Bay, Loblolly		1			1
Holly	1	1			2
Redcedar	2	8	19		29
Crape Myrtle			2		2
Sweetgum		6	8	1	15
Yellow-poplar		2	1		3
Magnolia, Southern		4	6		10
Other		29		1	30
Pine, Slash	9	24	15		48
Pine, Longleaf	10	26	44		80
Pine, other		7	4		11
Pine, Loblolly	1	3	10		14
Sycamore		1			1
Black Cherry		6	3		9
Oak, Turkey		4	1		5
Oak, Laurel	9	60	180		249
Oak, Water		3	4		7
Oak, other			3		3
Oak, Live	8	45	196	7	256
Cypress	1		1		2
Chinese Tallow		3	1		4
Elm		1	1		2
TOTAL	42	247	513	9	811

Going Forward

- Working with Consultant to conduct site assessments and Reforestation Plan.
- Working to plant in five parks this season.
- With the intent to plant in the rest of the parks next season (Nov 2021 to Mar 2022).

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the center, there is a large, faint, circular watermark of the University of Pennsylvania seal. The seal features a shield with a book, a star, and a wreath, surrounded by the text "UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA" and "1773".

Questions?