Stakeholder Questions and Summary

1. **What do you think would improve the code generally?**
   - Tree canopy percentage requirements could be reduced, or at least the ability to develop carefully under canopy with predictable allowance could be increased
   - Dripline and open space locational requirements should be eased as well
   - More incentives to save trees. For example, based on what percentage of trees are being saved, maybe you would be able to grade and pave to a certain percentage

2. **What could provide more surety in application of the code?**
   - Clarify definitions of what is a multi-trunk tree and tree measurements for mitigation
   - Pre-design or some other form of pre-app level site visit, even if it's not thorough
   - A new way of measuring canopy that is more scientific and easier for en masse trees

3. **Is there anything you think the County could do to help incentivize saving more trees on development sites?**
   - Make the tree mitigation standards easier to understand for applicants
   - Expand tree mitigation standards to include the placement of the tree and allowance for some impacts
   - A quality saved tree could count towards building frontage
   - Incentives to increase canopy could be to increase density
   - When a developer has the option to save a tree, but still are expected to pay 50% mitigation, they choose removal.

4. **Can you point to examples in your work where trees were preserved with impacts and have successfully survived after 5 or 10 years? Alternatively, trees that had impacts but did not survive after several years?**
   - The condition of the existing trees plays a large role. If a tree is old but strong it may withstand more impact than another, but another tree may die even if you design around it
   - Sergio brought up particularly interesting tree wells up to the root plate with a sidewalk coming through 1.5 ft from the trunk
   - Examples of trees that survived or are predicted to survive included Haile Village Publix lot, live oak trees in general, Veteran's Park, etc.

5. **If the requirement to save long-lived heritage trees was not strictly based on 60" but was instead based on a combination of quality and size, do you think it is something you could navigate in the Code? What impact would that have on development densities and intensities? Would there be any way to offset those impacts that you might recommend?**
   - Tree quality is hard to explain to clients sometimes, especially when size usurps quality at times. May become even more difficult with the subjectivity of quality

- Still, quality measures would help decision-making be more informed. Health, part of a tree cluster, and other quality measures are possibilities
- Frustrated that big lower quality trees are saved over smaller high quality trees
- Could establish alternative compliance

6. **What are factors that make it impossible to save trees on lots?**
   - Grading
   - Stormwater and utilities and the buffers around them
   - Elevation of canopy over roofs
   - Lot size

7. **Is the amount of grading we see now a result of existing topography, utilities (gravity sewer), or stormwater treatment code?**
   - All of the above
   - Topography in particular because the little land left to develop on is not ideal
   - Grading also impacted by retention walls, and lot yield (no control over contractors)

8. **Do you have any recommendations for allowances to dripline impacts or mitigation? What do other jurisdictions, if any, allow impacts within the drip line of a tree?**
   - Some places have no restrictions, or much looser restrictions (varying allowances and fees associated with different qualities of trees impacted within the dripline, but they can get extremely expensive so it incentivizes designing around trees)
   - The city of Gainesville defines root plate area you can't develop in, also can't do things within certain buffer of root plate area. County could use clear parameters like this
   - Option to pay a lot to move mature trees, or at least reduced punishments for impacts
   - Evaluating roots as a standard part of the process could help, as would being able to go up to the roots