



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00299

Agenda Date: 4/22/2025

Agenda Item Name:

Request to Advertise for County-Initiated Amendments to the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) for Trees and Native Vegetation, and Open Space

Presenter:

Christine Berish, 352-374-5249

Description:

- A request to strike and replace ULDC Chapter 406, Article II for Trees and Native Vegetation. This is a replacement of the entire Article, up to the Tree Lists, in Sec. 406.16.
- Amendments to Article V, of Chapter 407 for Open Space to comply with Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) Z25-000006 (County initiated CPA to add Tree Protection policies to the Conservation and Open Space Element)
- Associated amendments to Sec. 401.02 Powers and duties.; Sec. 402.12 Types of Public Notice; and Chapter 410 Definitions

Recommended Action:

Hear staff presentation and approve request to advertise the County initiated amendments to the ULDC for a public hearing

Prior Board Motions:

At the August 8, 2024 workshop, the Board made the following motion which passed unanimously:

1. Refer to staff for any recommendations to preserve the urban tree canopy.
2. Bring back a recommendation on how staff would prioritize the hierarchy of trees.
3. Refer to staff to bring back some recommendations on dripline impacts that are allowable without mitigation funds
4. Refer to staff bring back recommendations of what other counties and cities are doing for following up on the monitoring and different time frames.
5. Refer to staff to bring back a budget and timeline of doing a tree inventory within the urban cluster by the budget cycle.

At the January 7, 2025 workshop the Board made the following motion which passed unanimously:

1. Amend the Comp Plan for Open Space location criteria
2. Codify a tree rating system
3. Update the hierarchy of tree protection
4. Update Tree protection standards and impact allowances
5. Exempt Rural-ag up to 9 lots & Family Homestead Subdivisions requirements
6. Add a Code Enforcement and Penalty section
7. Provide an applicability exemption date for existing PDPs
8. Provide process for tree removal over 45" for residential lots

9. Create a multi-trunk definition

Fiscal Note:

There is no fiscal impact at this time, the advertisement, if approved, will be published on the County's "Public Notices" page.

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

At the June 11, 2024 Board of County Commissioner's hearing, the Board requested Staff to bring back at a workshop some ideas to protect more trees and to provide input that may create incentives to increase tree protection within our Urban Cluster. A workshop was held on August 8, 2024 in which the Board made the above motion.

On January 7, 2025 Staff presented a follow-up workshop to address the information requested at the August 7th workshop. The Board requested Staff proceed to a request to advertise for Staff's recommended changes. These changes require an associated Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Z25-000006) as well as amendments to the Open Space Code, Trees and Native Vegetation, Powers and Duties, Notice of Hearings, and Definitions in the ULDC.