

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 7, 2010

Date Submitted: May 24, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Lynn Artz, County Commissioner, District 5

Subject: Tree Ordinance and Incentives

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval to direct the County Attorney and Planning Staff to review and propose revisions to the County's current Tree and Landscape Ordinance, and research the possibilities of a tree ordinance for residential properties as well as incentives for tree preservation.

Background/Description:

In 2005, a Citizen Committee was created to improve the County's previous tree and landscape ordinance. This committee reviewed many tree ordinances and tried to create incentives for the preservation of mature native trees ("Signature Trees"). Their work product was adopted in 2006 as the County's current Tree and Landscape Ordinance for commercial properties (Ord. No. 2007-03, 1-16-07. Sec. 6-31).

Analysis:

Informal observation suggests that the County's Tree and Landscape Ordinance may not be as effective in preserving mature trees as its creators intended. Many commercial lots are still clear cut, and then later planted with small, young trees.

In addition, during Priority Setting and EAR Amendment discussions, the Board has expressed interest in the possibility of a tree ordinance that would apply to residential properties. Commissioner Artz has also had conversations with the County Attorney about incentives to encourage the preservation of tree canopy.

Options:

1. Approve directing the County Attorney and Planning Staff to propose revisions to the County's current Tree and Landscape Ordinance and propose additional tree ordinances and incentives.
2. Do not approve directing the County Attorney and Planning Staff to propose revisions to the County's current Tree and Landscape Ordinance and propose additional tree ordinances and incentives.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment:

1. Tree and Landscape Ord. #07-03