

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
January 18, 2018, 3:00 pm  
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees:

Wilbur Bellew, Code Enforcement Officer,  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,  
Robert Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person and note taker for this meeting.

~~Holly Brown, Committee member (unable to attend)~~  
~~Pam Richardson, Committee member (unable to attend)~~

2. Adoption of the summary of the Committee's December 21, 2017, meeting.

The draft summary was adopted without revision.

3. Planning for March 24, 2018, Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration at the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Grove volunteered to coordinate the event. All will assist prior to and at the event.

Daniel Stevens, Cooperative Forestry Assistance, Florida Forestry Service, gave Mr. Bellew two live oak trees for planting in the City. The Committee preliminarily decided to plant both on the east end of Lafayette Park at the time of the ceremony. Mr. Bellew will contact Mr. Stevens to see if the Service would provide free trees for handing out at the event.

[On the day following the meeting (the third Friday of January, Florida Arbor Day), Mr. Stevens notified Mr. Bellew and Mr. Winterringer that the Service was not able to provide free trees for handing out at our March 24 event. Mr. Stevens said that once the forester position for Franklin and Wakulla County is filled, he would make sure that the forester includes money in next year's budget for the purchase of trees that would be handed out in Apalachicola in 2019.]

4. Continued review of 2011 tree protection ordinance and 2015 proposed revisions (never adopted) for the purpose of proposing revisions.

The meeting attendees agreed on the following proposed revisions to the ordinance.

- At the first workshop for the proposed rules, present a range of alternatives for the fees that an applicant would pay to the Special Beautification Fund for the legal removal of a protected tree.
  - Reduce the per-tree fee (\$200 to \$800 per tree in the 2015 proposed ordinance revisions) or;

- Reduce the per-tree fee and cap the total tree removal fee on the property (e.g., \$X per tree but no more than a total of \$Y) or;
- Impose a flat fee for each permit no matter how many protected trees are proposed for removal.
  - Same for all tree removal permits or
  - Charge more for a tree removal permit associated with new home construction.

Private property owners adjacent to City property currently submit applications to remove trees on City property. These trees include those that are:

- Structurally unsound and a safety hazard (endangerment of public health, welfare, or safety) or a danger to damaging a building and
- Healthy trees that for whatever reason the property owner wants to remove.

The City does not charge the property owner for a permit in either situation. The City should consider doing so because applications for tree removal on City property account for about a quarter of all applications received.

Regarding the requirement for tree care contractors to have City licenses to operate here, Mr. Bellew said he did not know whether Broadspectrum, the Florida Department of Transportation's trimming contractor, and Duke Energy's trimming contractor (Burford's Tree in the past) have licenses. Mr. Winterringer will check with City Hall.

Time ran out before the meeting attendees had a chance to further discuss regulation of utility tree trimming.

#### 5. Next meeting.

- a. Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 3 p.m.

The Committee had been meeting the third Thursday of the month. Following the January 18 meeting, Ms. Brown contacted Mr. Winterringer and told him she now had another meeting at that time and would need to resign from the Tree Committee. Because the Committee is small and Ms. Brown's input is helpful, the Committee permanently rescheduled its meeting to the third Tuesday of the month, at 3 p.m.

- b. Agenda items – planning for Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration; continuation of discussion on proposed revisions to the tree protection ordinance.