

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
October 15, 2019, 3:00 pm
City Hall

1. Attendees:

Holly Brown, Committee member,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,
Ron Nalley, City Manager, and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person and note taker for this meeting.

2. No quorum for meeting.

At a minimum, three of the four Tree Committee members are needed for a meeting quorum. Because there were only two members present, there was not a quorum.

For lack of a quorum, no votes were made on proposed decisions, but discussions were held in order to keep things moving forward.

3. Liaison with City Commission.

At its next meeting, the City Commission will decide which of the Commissioners will be the liaison to the Tree Committee. Ms. Grove said she's interested in being the liaison.

4. Draft summary of the Committee's September 17, 2019, meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer).

Because of lack of quorum, the Committee did not decide whether to revise or adopt without revision the draft summary for the September 17 meeting (attached). The Committee defers this decision until its next meeting on November 19.

5. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) grant opportunity.

The Committee will undertake a multi-year effort to request DACS grants for Lafayette Park and Battery Park starting with an inventory and assessment (structural stability and health) of trees followed in successive years by development of tree landscaping plans and implementation of the plans (planting).

Mr. Winterringer contacted Stan Rosenthal, Legacy Arborist Services, and Sam Hand, Florida A&M University Extension Service, to see if they were interested in working on the project. They are, and Mr. Winterringer met with Mr. Rosenthal on September 28 to tour and view trees in the two parks.

Following the tour, Mr. Rosenthal prepared a proposal. For a fee of \$5,000, Mr. Rosenthal would:

- Collect on-the-ground Global Positioning System (GPS) data for the locations of all trees, park boundaries, buildings and structures, walkways, playgrounds, and adjacent streets that will be incorporated into the City's Geographic Information System (GIS).
- Conduct an on-the-ground evaluation of the structural integrity and health of each tree.
- Prepare a written report including:
 - A map showing the locations of trees, park boundaries, and physical structures described above.
 - An Excel spreadsheet listing for each individual tree the:
 - Species,
 - Indication as to those that are non-native species (e.g., camphor and tallow),
 - Diameter at breast height,
 - Health rating on a 5-point scale (very poor to good),
 - Likelihood of structural failure on a 4-lettered scale (improbable to imminent danger),
 - Entity that would be affected (e.g., people, structure),
 - Degree of risk (low to high), and
 - Recommendation (structural remediation and/or removal of high risk trees, prune, soil test and monitor, etc.).
 - A soils map,
 - A general tree care plan, and
 - Aesthetic analysis of the tree canopy with replanting recommendations (when appropriate, utilizing native, historical species), and
 - Ground cover management recommendations, including horticultural and wildlife enhancements.

At its October 8 meeting, the City Commission gave City Manager Ron Nalley and the Tree Committee permission to file a DACS grant application for the proposed project.

The grant application requirements specify that the applicant match the grant dollar for dollar, but they also allow for in-kind contributions that offset the applicant's match. Mr. Hand's and Mr. Winterringer's participation are in-kind contributions, which could reasonably offset any cash contribution that the City would need to make. However, the chances of the City obtaining the grant might be increased if the City has a "skin in the game." Therefore after discussion it was agreed that the City would contribute \$500 in cash and the balance of the match would be in-kind contributions.

Mr. Winterringer will prepare the application, obtain Mr. Nalley's signature on it, and submit the application to DACS by the October 25 due date.

DACS will make a decision on the grant application by December 31, 2019, and, if funded, the project will occur in calendar year 2020.

6. Duke Energy trimming along electric power lines.

Jeff Varn, regional forester for Duke Energy, notified the City Manager that Duke's contractor, Burford's Tree, would soon begin maintenance trimming along the power lines shown on the attached map.

On September 19, Mr. Winterringer met with Duke, Burford's, and Ecological Consultants, Inc. (also Duke's contractor) to drive the streets along the lines shown on the first map.

Mr. Nalley made Mr. Varn aware, and Mr. Winterringer reiterated, that the Tree Ordinance regulations require that a certified arborist be present and direct the trimming work on any patriarch tree.

On October 7, Burford's notified Mr. Winterringer that it had begun trimming inside the City limits on the loop shown in the second map.

The largest patriarch live oak in town at the northwest corner of 13th Street and Avenue C will be trimmed. Because the property owners, who are part-time residents, prize this tree, Mr. Winterringer will e-mail property owner Martha Elliott and make sure that she knows that trimming will occur probably within the next month.

Mr. Nalley will post on the City website a notice about the tree trimming in town and include a link to the map showing the power lines along which trimming will occur.

7. Tree permits issued and Reforestation Fund fees collected.

In September, the City issued one tree permit and collected \$25 for the Reforestation Fund.

For the time period May 16 (when the revised Tree Ordinance went into effect) through September 30, the City issued 14 tree removal or alteration permits, allowed the removal of 53 trees, and collected \$1,125 for the Reforestation Fund.

8. Planning for January 2020 Arbor Day celebration.

The State of Florida celebrates Arbor Day on the third Friday of January. In 2020, the date is January 17.

Ms. Grove and Ms. Brown will coordinate the Committee's Apalachicola Arbor Day celebration, which will be held on Saturday, January 25 at the Farmer's Market.

Previous participants will be contacted to see if they can attend. Ms. Brown will contact Ryan Hensel as soon as possible soon to see if the Florida Forestry Service can provide free trees the Committee can hand out.

9. Next meeting.

November 19, 2019, 3 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the Tree Committee.