

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
October 18, 2022, at 3 p.m.
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees.

Scott Davis, Committee member,
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Draft summary of Committee's July 19, 2022, meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer).

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the July 19, 2022, meeting.

By agreement at the July meeting, no meeting was held in August.

No meeting was held in September because Mr. Davis and Ms. Pam Richardson were out of town and Bob Seaborn passed away.

3. Recruitment of additional Tree Committee members.

Bob Seaborn, a Tree Committee member since April 2017, died on September 6.

The last meeting Frederic Kahler attended was over a year ago (September 2021).

Mr. Winterringer will ask the City Manager to post a notice on the City website and Facebook page announcing two Committee member vacancies and asking interested residents to apply.

4. January 2023 Arbor Day event.

Arbor Day is celebrated in Florida on the third Friday of January. That's January 20 in 2023.

Mr. Winterringer will contact Alex Skovronsky, Florida Forest Service, to see if there is money in the Service's budget to buy trees that would be given away at a Committee Arbor Day event in January 2023.

5. Committee's tree planting this coming winter.

In the summer, We Love Land Studio (Sam and Liz Berkheiser) donated to the City five live oaks that are potted in 3-gallon containers and are about 7 feet tall. Since then Mr. Winterringer cared for them at his house. Two are healthy, one is less healthy but may survive, and two are not likely to survive.

- In memory of Bob Seaborn, one of the donated live oaks will be planted at City Square (a block from Bob's house).

- One or two of the donated live oaks will be planted at Franklin Square (a few blocks from Berkheiser residence (an addition to the two live oaks and crepe myrtle planted by the Committee at the square in March 2021)).

During the formulation of the City's 2022/2023 budget for the fiscal year starting October 1, Mr. Winterringer contacted City Finance Director Mark Gerspacher and commented at a City Commission budget workshop on the amount of Reforestation Fund money that had been collected for tree removal permits and should be in the Reforestation Fund account. As a result, the Commission adopted a budget that included in the Public Works department \$16,490 for the Reforestation Fund (\$10,950 actually collected from May 16, 2019, through August 17, 2022, plus a projected amount through the end of the 2022/2023 fiscal year).

Rather than using the available Reforestation Fund money to plant trees this coming 2022/2023 winter, it was agreed to first develop one or more detailed site planting plans for specific City properties (e.g., parks, squares, street rights of way, and cemeteries) and then during the next (2023/2024) winter plant trees according to the plans. Mr. Winterringer proposes that, involving the Parks and Recreation Committee, City Manager, and the City Commission, and using money from the Reforestation Fund, the City hire a landscape designer to prepare site planting plans for one or more City properties.

If the plans are developed by this time next year, the Committee will use the plans when it applies for an Urban and Community Forestry Program grant from the Florida Forest Service.

6. Next meeting.

November 15, 2022, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.