

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
October 19, 2017, 3:00 pm  
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees:

Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person  
Bob Seaborn, Committee member  
Wilbur Bellew, Code Enforcement Officer  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner  
Holly Brown  
Pam Richardson

2. Adoption or revision of attached draft summary for the Committee's September 21, 2017, meeting.

Adopted as drafted. Bob will send a copy to Anita.

3. Appointment of Jimmy Elliott as City Commission liaison with the Committee; continued involvement in meetings by City Commissioner Anita Grove.

Jimmy might defer to Anita to be the liaison. Anita will address at the next City Commission meeting.

4. Follow-up to October 14, 2017, Arbor Day celebration at the Scipio Creek Farmer's Market.

a. Photos – Dennis and Anita provided some for the record.

b. Does Wilbur Bellew need any documentation on the event for the annual Tree City USA application (e.g., copy of Mayor's proclamation)?

Wilbur doesn't need any more documentation at this time.

c. Planning for next year.

Spring event to more closely coincide with national Arbor Day (April 27, 2018) or State Arbor Day (January 19, 2018)?

Rather than celebrating Arbor Day about the time of national Arbor Day on April 27, the committee decided to hold an earlier event on March 24 at the Farmer's Market. The celebration was moved up to take advantage of cooler weather, which is more conducive to planting young trees.

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22. Combine Arbor Day celebration with Earth Day celebration?

Yes.

Arrange to obtain bare-root trees from the Florida Forest Service for handing out at the celebration?

So that the Committee may develop a relationship with the Florida Forest Service, Wilbur will arrange for his contact with the Service to attend one of the Committee's meetings. At that time, we will discuss the possibility of obtaining free trees from the Service.

d. Tree Committee applications received at celebration.

Holly Brown and Pam Richardson have submitted applications. Wilbur gave these applications to City Administrator Lee Mathes so that she can put them on the agenda for the City Commission meeting on November 7.

#### 5. Trimming of patriarch oak on Highway 98.

On October 18, a Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) contractor (Broadspectrum) trimmed two large limbs overhanging Highway 98 from the patriarch live oak tree adjacent to the dentist's office. Dennis and Anita have pictures before, during, and after the trimming.

On the previous day, Wilbur had received a telephone call notifying him that the trimming would occur the next day. In a follow-up call that day, he talked to a person at Florida DOT, who informed him that the limbs were safety hazards and that the City could not stop the trimming.

The committee is concerned about the short notice and that the contractor apparently does not have a registered arborist for such trimming.

Wilbur is going to see if he can find the DOT standards for trimming trees along highways. Anita is going to make a few calls to "Tallahassee" to see if she can get additional information.

#### 6. Start of review of 2011 tree protection ordinance and 2015 proposed revisions (never adopted) for the purpose of proposing revisions.

Attached is a copy of the 2011 ordinance showing revisions that were proposed by the Tree Committee in 2015.

At its April 7, 2015, meeting, the City Commission considered adoption of the revisions proposed by the Committee. The summary of the meeting indicates that that following discussion occurred.

Commissioner Ash expressed concern how Tree Ordinance puts extra financial hardship on homeowners.

Commissioner Bartley addressed amount of fines and proposed changes.

Beth Wright stated the original Tree Ordinance did not specifically outline all the species that needed to be addressed.

A Commissioner's motion to approve the proposed revisions died for lack of a second.

Keeping the City Commission meeting comments in mind, the Committee began its discussion to identify proposed revisions to the City's tree protection requirements.

- The Committee targets the first quarter of 2018 for drafting proposed revisions to the tree protection ordinance.
- To obtain Planning and Zoning Board and public input on the proposed revisions, the Committee will coordinate with the Board to hold a Tree Committee workshop prior to one of the Board's monthly meetings.
- The proposed revisions will completely replace the tree protection requirements contained in the 2011 ordinance.
- Regarding tree removal applications:
  - Two persons (Wilbur, the City Administrator, or a designee in Wilbur's or the Administrator's absence (e.g., City Clerk)) make decisions on removal or substantial alteration of diseased trees, trees posing imminent safety hazards, or trees causing damage to building foundations.
  - The Planning and Zoning Board makes decisions on removal or substantial alteration of trees associated with proposed, new or expanded buildings.

#### 7. Next meeting.

Dennis and Anita will be out of town on November 16, the date of the next scheduled meeting. The Committee decided not to hold a meeting in November, but Dennis will continue working on proposed tree protection rules for discussion at the December meeting.

The December meeting is scheduled a few days prior to Christmas on December 21. At this time, meeting attendees other than Pam can meet on this date. The Committee will hold its meeting on the regularly-scheduled date.