

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
November 15, 2022, at 3 p.m.
Battery Park Community Center

1. Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser
Scott Davis, Committee member,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,
Pam Richardson, Committee member,
Lynn Wilder
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Draft summary of Committee's October 18, 2022, meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer).

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the October 18, 2022, meeting.

3. Recruitment of additional Tree Committee members.

Mr. Winterringer asked 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. As of November 13, the notice is posted on the City's "Citizens Board" webpage but not on the City's Facebook page.

The City's webpage lists the Tree Committee and members but does not include a description of what we do. Mr. Winterringer provided a paragraph to the City Manager, but it has not been inserted on the webpage.

4. January 2023 Arbor Day event.

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

The Committee's Arbor Day event is scheduled for January 14 at the Scipio Creek marina farmers market.

Mr. Winterringer contacted Emily Martin, Florida Forest Service forester for Franklin County, and she obtained from the State office a budget of \$500 to buy trees that will be given away at the Committee's Arbor Day event. She submitted a request for the following 71 trees.

- 20 pond cypresses,
- 15 sand live oaks,
- 15 myrtle oaks,
- 11 sweetbay magnolias, and
- 10 longleaf pines.

Both Ms. Martin and Alex Skovronsky, Florida Forest Service forester for Tate's Hell State Forest, will attend as will Erik Lovestrand, University of Florida Extension Service.

Lynn Wilder, who has injected several of her palms to prevent lethal bronzing disease, agreed to attend the event and to talk to interested persons about the treatment drug, equipment, and procedures.

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. The three live trees will be planted in the following locations.

- Two trees at City Square, one in memory of Bob Seaborn (a block from Bob's house).
- One tree at Franklin Square along 6th Street (a few blocks from the Berkheiser residence (in addition to the two live oaks and crepe myrtle planted by the Committee at the square in March 2021)).

6. Development of landscaping plans for Lafayette Park.

For fiscal year 2022/2023, the City Commission adopted in the Public Works department budget \$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 buy and plant trees this coming 2022/2023 winter, Committee members have agreed that it would be best 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.

Messrs. Davis and Winterringer attended the Parks and Recreation Committee's (PRC) October 21, 2022, meeting. At the meeting, the two Committees agreed to propose that the City, using Reforestation Fund money, hire a landscape designer to prepare a planting plan for Lafayette Park.

7. Departure of Code Enforcement Officer.

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Jenkins is resigning effective December 30.

The vacancy announcement for the position does not list tree removal permits as one of the Officer's duties. Assuming this is an oversight and the Officer will do this work, we'll have to meet with the new Officer to bring him or her up to speed on the Tree Ordinance requirements and tree removal permits.

In the last 3 1/2 years, there have been seven persons in the Code Enforcement Officer position: Wilbur Bellew, Revena Ramsey, T.J. Lemieux, Kevin Newell, Joe Richey, Angela Creamer, and now Glen Jenkins.

Because of the turnover, there has been no consistency and continuity in issuing tree removal permits.

8. Tree City USA recertification.

To keep its designation as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA community, the City needs to submit a recertification application by December 31.

Mr. Winterringer has inserted most of the needed information in the on-line application and asked Glen Jenkins to insert additional information on the City's tree removal and maintenance costs and to get the Mayor's signature on the completed application.

9. Next meeting.

December 20, 2022, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.