

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
November 16, 2021, 3:00 pm  
Apalachicola Margaret Key Library**

1. Attendees.

Joe Richey, Code Enforcement Officer,  
Bob Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Draft summary of Committee's September 21, 2021, meeting (prepared by Mr. Seaborn).

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the September 21, 2021, meeting.

3. Reforestation Fund.

By September 28, 2021, e-mail message, City Finance Director Leo Bebeau told Mr. Winterringer that the \$5,695 of Reforestation Fund fees Mr. Winterringer documented the City had collected through September 13, 2021, would be "shown on the Public Works Department of the annual budget as funds to be spent during 2021-2022." He added that "[a]dditional amounts will be added to available funds as collected and deducted as spent."

As Mr. Bebeau indicated, Code Enforcement Officer Joe Richey (i.e., not administrative assistant Melissa Hand) will report to Mr. Bebeau the amount of money collected for the Reforestation Fund. Mr. Richey will include Mr. Winterringer on the e-mail when he sends this information to Mr. Bebeau.

Mr. Bebeau said the only money that has been withdrawn from the Reforestation Fund account was for the southern red cedar "Christmas tree" planted in Riverfront Park last winter. Mr. Bebeau didn't indicate what that cost was. Thus no Reforestation Fund money has been used to pay contractors to cut down trees posing a threat to people or property in city street rights of way.

4. Tree City USA recertification application.

Mr. Richey will finish the on-line application, which is due by December 31.

5. Planning for January 2022 Arbor Day event.

Arbor Day is celebrated in Florida on the third Friday of January. That's January 21 in 2022.

For the City's January 2019 and 2020 Arbor Day events, Florida Forest Service (FFS) provided free trees to give away.

Owing to the COVID outbreak, FFS did not provide free trees for 2021 Arbor Day, and the Committee did not hold a public event.

The day after this Committee meeting, Alex Skovronsky, an FFS forester working in Tate's Hell State Forest, submitted a request to the State office to obtain money for the purchase of trees.

The Tree Committee decided to:

- Hold the Arbor Day event:
  - At the farmer's market at Scipio Creek marina.
  - On Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Arrange for participation by the following persons.
  - Alex Skovronsky, representing FFS;
  - Joe Richey, City of Apalachicola Code Enforcement Officer and issuer of tree permits;
  - Commissioner Anita Grove, representing Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve; and
  - Erik Lovstrand, local University of Florida Extension Service agent.
- Prepare a newspaper article for the Apalachicola Times (hopefully by Pam Richardson); and
- Write an Arbor Day proclamation for approval by the City Commission and signature by the Mayor.

#### 6. Tree and shrub memorials in City parks.

On October 5, 2021, the City Commission approved the Parks and Recreation Committee's proposal to raise money for City park improvements through a donor program that commemorates people (both dead and living). Donors would buy benches, picnic tables, trash cans, recognition bricks in walkways, and trees and shrubs.

The Tree Committee will be involved in determining whether the donor's preferred plant is appropriate and in deciding on a planting location.

In Mr. Winterringer's opinion, this program is another reason that a plan needs to be developed showing where specific trees will be planted. When a donor approaches the City, the Tree Committee could show the plan to the donor and agree on the tree or shrub species and planting location.

#### 7. Next meeting.

December 21, 2021, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.