

Meeting Summary
Tree Committee
November 20, 2018

In attendance: Dennis, Holly, Bob, Pam, and Anita

The draft summary of the October 30 meeting was unanimously approved.

It was agreed that the workshop with the City Council on November 6 went well.

During that meeting it was agreed that any request to remove or substantially alter a patriarch tree as part of a development plan would require a recommendation from the Tree Committee to Planning and Zoning. If such a request is not part of a development plan, the Tree Committee would make a recommendation to the City Manager.

In response to Anita's workshop comment, the Tree Committee decided at this meeting to add proposed language indicating that the Board of Adjustment may consider granting a variance to reduce building setbacks or minimum dwelling size if doing so would spare a patriarch tree from being removed or substantially altered.

It was suggested that a letter, or some form of communication, be sent to general contractors alerting them to rules on tree cutting, especially patriarch trees, including fines involved.

The next step for the revised Tree Ordinance is going through the first reading before the City Commission on December 4. The public may comment at that time.

Regarding the Committee's January 25, 2019, Arbor Day celebration, Pam will ask the Mayor to speak at 10 A.M., and Holly will contact Ryan Hensel, Senior Forester, about trees that the Florida Forestry Commission will provide. It was suggested that the Committee collect a nominal donation (e.g., \$5 per tree) for each of the trees that is distributed at the celebration. This might help ensure that the trees are actually planted. The money will be deposited in the City's Reforestation Fund for the purchase of trees on public property.

In response to a request from Pam, the Committee agreed that the Celebration of Trees (scheduled for April) organizers may set up a table at the Arbor Day celebration and sell calendars containing pictures of Apalachicola trees. Holly said that the organizers will also issue a Facebook Challenge for posting pictures of trees.

Past Tree Committee member Caroline Weiler had spoken to the City Administrator and had located \$1,800 of the money that Progress Energy had given to the City. This money is available for the purchase of trees. With the City Administrator's permission, the Celebration of Trees organizers intend to use this money for trees that would be planted in April. This may include trees that would be planted in Riverfront Park.