

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 17, 2019, 3:00 pm**  
**Community Center at Battery Park**

1. Attendees:

Holly Brown, Committee member and note taker for this meeting,  
Pam Richardson, Committee member,  
Bob Seaborn, Committee member,  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person, and  
Alex Skovronsky, Florida Forestry Service, Forester.

2. Draft summary of Committee's November 19, 2019, meeting summaries (prepared by Mr. Seaborn).

The Committee voted to adopt with the following revisions the draft summary for the November 19 meeting: fix Ed Duke's name and Will Liner's title.

3. Planning for January 2020 Arbor Day celebration.

For the City to retain its Tree City USA designation, the Arbor Day Foundation requires an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The January 25 event at the Farmers Market meets the observance requirement. As far as the proclamation is concerned, Arbor Day Foundation has the attached sample on its website. Commissioner Grove will prepare a proclamation for the City Commission's January 7 meeting and ask the City Manager to include it on the agenda.

Ms. Grove discussed the draft flyer and media release for the celebration.

Here's the line-up:

- Keynote speaker will be Will Liner, Florida Forestry Service Urban Forestry Program Manager. Dennis will work out a topic with him to be promoted, and he can discuss the grant his department is hopefully going to award us in the upcoming weeks.
- Ryan Hensel is set with the tree giveaway. Holly will stay in touch with him.
- Bring Me a Book will be giving away children's books.
- The Apalachicola Ukulele Orchestra and Singers will be entertaining with Tree songs.
- Linda Armstrong will have a table of "tree art".
- Alex Stovronsky will offer information from the Forestry service and help out Ryan Hensel.
- Sam Hand and Ed Duke of FAMU extension will be available for tree consultation from the public.

4. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) grant opportunity.

By the October 25 deadline, the City submitted a \$4,500 grant application to conduct an inventory and assessment (structural stability and health) of trees in Lafayette Park and Battery Park.

DACS will make a decision on the grant application by December 31, 2019, and, if funded, Stan Rosenthal, Legacy Arborist Services, and Sam Hand, Florida A&M University Extension Service, will do the field work and prepare the report in the first quarter of calendar year 2020.

5. Gibson Inn Request:

Commissioner Anita Grove asked the Committee's opinion concerning a request from the owner of the Gibson Inn. He would like to take down two trees, a damaged laurel oak and another unidentified tree. After discussion, Dennis said he thought the Gibson should apply and that application should be approved, but that he should be asked to replace them with native trees, hopefully not palms since there are so many of them planted downtown. Holly suggested a magnolia, Pam suggested crepe myrtle even though it's not native. Anita will report to the Gibson owner

6. Alex Skovronsky Application

Alex, a resident of 151 13<sup>th</sup> Street, came to the Tree Committee meeting to discuss a number of trees he is applying to take down on his property. He presented a map of 9 trees. His priority is to take down a large magnolia close to his house. He believes the tree is compromised by a number of factors: a forked trunk, too close to the house, and the fact that it is a very old tree. He also wants to take down a water oak that is in the way of his permitted plan for a shed and would further like permission to take down a number of other water oaks that he thought could be a potential threat to his house. After discussion, the committee decided to recommend that Alex be allowed to remove the trees on the proviso that he present the city with a landscape plan for replanting trees on his property. Final decision on the permit application will be up to the City Manager since the City has no Code Enforcement Officer at this time.

7. Next meeting.

January 21, 2019, 3 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the Tree Committee.