

City of Apalachicola
Meeting Summary
December 21, 2021, 3:00 PM
Battery Park Community Center

1. Attendees

Scott Davis, prospective Committee member

Pam Richardson, Committee member and preparer of summary for this meeting

Bob Seaborn, Committee member

Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairman

2. Draft summary of Committee's November 16, 2021 meeting

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the November 16, 2021 meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer).

3. Departure of Code Enforcement Officer; submission of Tree City USA recertification application

Mr. Winterringer reported that Code Enforcement Officer Joe Richey left his position with the city last Friday, and before his departure he finished the online Tree City recertification application. We are waiting now on the last step which is the mayor's signature.

We do not know who will now be reviewing applications and issuing tree permits. There ensued a conversation with Mr. Davis in which he introduced himself to us and we tried brought him up to speed on how the Tree Committee works and its relationship to the city administration. Mr. Davis is a biologist and a botanist with degrees from FSU and he worked for a decade at the US Fish and Wildlife Service in St. Marks. The Committee expressed pleasure at his desire to join ranks with us, and Mr. Winterringer informed him that he would have to be approved by the City Commissioners. We will try to get him on the agenda for the next meeting of the Commissioners. In the meantime, Mr. Davis volunteered as a resident of the city to see if he can find out who to contact at City Hall for tree permits.

4. Planning for January Arbor Day event

Because the Florida Forest Service has allocated \$500 to every county in the state, we are almost certain that they will be able to provide us with trees that we can give away at our Arbor

Day celebration at the farmers market at the Mill Pond on Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 9AM to noon. Our local forester, Alex Skovronsky, has requested 84 three-gallon trees from the FFS headquarters in Tallahassee, and it appears that we will be getting 28 bald cypress, 36 live oak, 10 sweet bay and 10 sycamore.

Participants in the event will include Committee members, Alex Skovronsky, Commissioner Anita Grove, representing the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve and Eric Lovestrand, local University of Florida Extension Service agent; the Master Gardeners may also participate. Ms. Richardson said she would contact Ms. Grove about supplying is with tables and a tent. Ms. Richardson also asked for clarification on exact points she should make in an article for the Apalachicola Times and a public service announcement on Oyster Radio. Ms. Richardson will also contact City Hall with a request that the event be advertised on the City's Facebook page.

Mr. Winterringer will write an Arbor Day proclamation (a requirement for Tree City USA membership), for approval by the City Commission and signature by the Mayor.

5. Next meeting

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2022 at the Battery Park Community Center.