

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Notes for February 15, 2022, 3 P.M. Meeting
at Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees

Sondra Taylor-Furbee, visiting resident
Pam Richardson, Committee member
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson

2. Draft Summary of Committee's January 18, 2022 Meeting

The draft summary for the January 18, 2022 meeting was adopted without revision.

3. Scott Davis appointment to Tree Committee

Mr. Winterringer announced the appointment of Scott Davis to the Tree Committee by the City Commission at their February 10, 2022 meeting.

4. Report on the Committee's Arbor Day event

Mr. Winterringer proclaimed the Committee's Arbor Day event a great success. See the 2-15-22 meeting agenda for details. The Apalachicola Times ran a full-page report on the event the week after it was held.

5. Tree removal concerns

Mr. Winterringer asked Angela Creamer, City Code Enforcement Officer, to attend, but she declined in order to prepare for a training class that she was going to attend. Accordingly, discussion with her about the following tree removal sites did not occur.

a. Ms. Taylor-Furbee informed us that when she bought her property abutting the former Mormon Church location (270 Prado), she was assured by the County that there was a 40-foot city-owned easement between her property and the Mormon church property; but, after an absence at Christmas time, she returned to find

that all the trees in that supposed easement had been cut by the Urban Catalyst Construction company (Midway, FL), which is building a condominium complex at the former church site. When she went to the County to inquire about the legality of this, she was told that the County had made a mistake when they told her about there being an easement and that, in fact, Urban Catalyst Construction had done nothing illegal. Trees removed by the construction company included a stand of mature slash pines. According to the City tree removal permit that Ms. Creamer sent to Mr. Winterringer, she charged the construction company a \$500 Reforestation Fund fee for tree removal – apparently a maximum of \$250 for two lots. Additionally, the land at that location is very wet and Ms. Taylor-Furbee is concerned about run-off water discharging onto her property. Mr. Winterringer and Ms. Richardson suggested to Ms. Taylor-Furbee that her only “recourse” is to take the issue up with the City Manager; they also suggested that she talk to him about the construction company’s plans to plant new trees, advising him that it should be done sooner rather than later.

b. Regarding the patriarch live oak which was recently removed from the city street right of way at 108 Avenue I, it appears that the City removed it for the owners, but the City filed no paperwork on the removal and they did not run it by the Tree Committee as the Tree Ordinance specifies.

c. Regarding the patriarch live oak at 270 Acola Avenue removed from the City street right of way without City approval, Ms. Creamer told Mr. Winterringer that she had requested the property owner’s paperwork from a certified arborist purportedly documenting that the tree was dead. As off this date, he has not provided that paperwork.

d. Regarding the large oak (live oak?) removed in the City street right of way on Chapman Square adjacent to 70 14th Street, the assumption is that the City removed it, but there is no written documentation.

e. Regarding the mature slash pines removed at the construction site for the drug rehabilitation facility at 150 10th Street, Ms. Creamer found no tree removal permit.

6. City Commission’s January 26, 2022 workshop to discuss possible changes to City Ordinances

Near the end of the meeting (viewable on the City's Facebook page), the City Manager suggested several revisions to the Tree Ordinance, but unfortunately some of the "information" on which he based his suggestions was inaccurate (again, see the 2-15-22 Tree Committee Agenda). For the record, let it be known that (1) for a single lot, the Reforestation Fund fee for non-patriarch trees is capped at \$250 and that (2) the Tree Ordinance does not require a permit to remove a tree that has fallen on a house.

7. Next meeting

March 15, 2022 at 3PM at the Battery Park Community Center