

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
March 16, 2021, 3:00 pm  
Battery Park Covered Stage**

1. Expected attendees.

Anita Grove, City Commissioner,  
Frederic Kahler, Committee member,  
Pam Richardson, Committee member,  
Bob Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and notetaker for this meeting.

2. Draft summary of Committee's February 16, 2021, meeting (prepared by Mr. Kahler).

With some reservations, the Committee adopted without revision Mr. Kahler's draft summary for the February 16, 2021, meeting.

Mr. Kahler typed the summary in the text of an e-mail message. In the future, it is requested that the summary be prepared using the Word software.

3. Mulching of trees at Lafayette Park.

Michaelin Watts, who lives on 13<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to Lafayette Park, organized the City's purchasing and community members spreading of mulch around trees at the Park. Committee members Richardson, Seaborn, and Winterringer participated in the February 24 work day.

The purpose of applying the mulch in a circle around the trees is to prevent damage to roots sticking above the ground surface by lawn mowers and damage to the tree trunks caused by string trimmers. Whether the purpose will be achieved is questionable. The mulch is already starting to decompose, and weeds are invading the mulch circles.

4. Committee's planting of trees.

At its February meeting, the Committee decided to propose the spring planting of the following trees on City property.

- A bald cypress west of the playground at Lafayette Park,
- A live oak on the west end of Riverfront Park,
- A live oak at the Splash Pad, and
- Three live oaks bordering Avenue L at Holy Family Senior Center.

Ms. Richardson and Ms. Grove met and staked the proposed planting locations. Mr. Winterringer e-mailed City Manager Travis Wade to get his concurrence. Ms. Richardson

contacted the utility location service to see if buried electrical lines and cable lines were in these areas. Mr. Winterringer met with City water department employees Rhett Butler and William Cox to determine whether buried water sprinkler, water, sewer, and electrical lines were in these areas.

As a result of these contacts, the following changes were made to the proposed planting list.

- Deletion of the Riverfront Park live oak because of the City Manager's concerns about obstruction of view of those attending the annual July 3 fireworks show and the extra maintenance of City and prisoner crews to clean up leaves shed by the oak.
- Deletion of the Splash Pad live oak because of a buried electrical line and water recirculation line in the proposed planting location (and for an alternate location west of the Pad, because of uncertainty about the early childhood development's plan for erecting a new fence in that area).
- At Holy Family, the planting of a crepe myrtle instead of a live oak near the corner of Dr. Frederick S. Humphries Street and Avenue L because of a nearby buried power line, and the planting of a live oak along 6<sup>th</sup> Street instead of Avenue L because of booths for H'COLA's African-American History Festival and Chunky Sunday that are erected in the location of one of the proposed trees.

A big thanks to Ms. Richardson for coordinating with City Finance Director Leo Bebeau to purchase the trees and to price and pick up the trees at Just Fruits and Exotics near Panacea.

Committee members Richardson, Seaborn, and Winterringer planted the trees on March 20. Nonmember Bill Scarpa also helped.

Commissioner Grove is watering the bald cypress at Lafayette Park, and Ms. Richardson and Mr. Winterringer are alternating on a weekly basis in watering the crepe myrtle and two live oaks at Holy Family.

#### 5. Code Enforcement Officer.

The City advertised to hire a new Code Enforcement Officer.

A duty of the last three Code Enforcement Officers has been to process tree permit applications. The job announcement does not list this as a duty. It's unknown whether this was an oversight or whether this duty is being shifted to another employee. Assuming the former, it's unknown who is handling the applications until a new Officer is hired.

#### 6. Next meeting.

April 20, 2021, 3 p.m.