

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
March 20, 2019 – 3PM
Battery Park Community Center

1. Attendees:

Holly Brown, Committee member

Anita Grove, City Commissioner

Pam Richardson, Committee member & note-taker for this meeting

Dennis, Winterringer, Committee chairperson

2. Committee adopted, without revision, the draft summary Committee's February 19, 2019 meeting.

3. Justin Stiell, the DEO Planning Analyst, has not gotten back to Dennis after a March 13 communication between them. The Committee is "on hold" until the DEO approves the revised Tree Ordinance regulations.

4. Dennis explained the minor changes to the new ordinance requested by Wilbur Bellew - e.g, the word "designee" was added to pages 4 and 5 of the application and, on page 3, under item (c)(b)1, the wording was changed to read "number of trees greater than 16" to less than 35..." It was suggested that once we have DEO approval, we can inform the city's residents of the new ordinance on their water & sewer bills; we will also have to remove the old ordinance from the city's building department website and replace it with the new one.

5. Regarding new tree planting in parks and squares, the National Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program's requirement that the community match grant funds on a one-to-one basis could be met by whatever funds we accrue in our Reforestation Fund; we could also ask Duke Energy for a sizeable contribution. There followed much discussion about the above mentioned grant. In terms of whether we need a professional plan, we agreed that we, the Committee, can take care of coming up with a plan for LaFayette, Riverfront and Battery parks as well as the cemetery and the Mill Pond – although we will have to learn how to operate a GPS. At a later date, perhaps, we can hire a professional to go around the whole city and tell us what needs to be removed, etc.

6. Regarding the Florida Seafood Festival donation, Anita thinks she will probably have to stake out two appropriate locations at Battery Park for the two trees (\$150-\$200) the Festival

committee wants to donate to the area. Anita said we should make a "press moment" out of the donation.

7. Holly updated the committee on all the events planned for the Celebration of Trees scheduled to start on April 13, 2019 and run through April 22; she noted that the artist-TREE exhibit at HCA will run through April 27. Anita offered to inform attendees about our Tree Committee at any of the scheduled events; she will also give PR information to Oyster Radio and the Apalachicola Times.

8. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.