

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
May 16, 2023, at 3 p.m.
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser, Committee member,
Scott Davis, Committee member,
Greg Gologowski,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,
Richard Hall,
Rebecca Stafford, Committee member, and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Summary of Committee's April 19, 2023, meeting.

The Committee approved without revision the draft summary of the April 19, 2023, meeting.

3. Departure of Pam Richardson from Committee.

Effective May 15, 2023, Pam Richardson, who had been on the Committee for 6 years, resigned.

4. Interaction with new Code Enforcement Officer.

New Code Enforcement Officer P.J. Erwin is out of town this week and is unable to attend this meeting. Hopefully, she'll be able to attend next month.

She has contacted Mr. Winterringer to get his input on several trees. Of note, Mr. Winterringer met with her to show her about 20 sabal palms on city properties that are apparently infected with lethal bronzing disease (LBD). She's in contact with Greg Harris, Superintendent of Public Works, who removed one of the trees himself (the tree along the pier at Lafayette Park) and will hire a contractor to remove the others.

5. Double-headed palm at Lafayette Park.

The LBD-infected tree at Lafayette was close to the double-headed palm that the city is going to showcase with a sign explaining its rarity.

To protect this unusual tree from LBD, Mr. Winterringer will ask the City Manager to authorize the purchase of the antibiotic and injection equipment the Committee would use to treat this tree. Mr. Davis agreed to do the treatments (quarterly for 2 years).

6. LBD-infected trees on private property.

LBD is spreading, and infected trees are showing up on private property.

There is no provision in the tree protection requirements of the Land Development Code to require a private property owner to remove a diseased tree to stop the spread of disease to other privately- and city-owned properties.

Mr. Winterringer sent to Ms. Erwin a draft letter the city could use to notify property owners and ask them to remove infected trees.

7. Landscaping plan for Lafayette Park.

a. Soil testing.

Mr. Winterringer will ask the City Manager to authorize payment for the analysis of five soil samples by the University of Florida Extension Service.

b. Assessment of existing trees.

Messrs. Berkheiser and Davis and Ms. Stafford will meet at the park to assess the health and structural stability of existing trees. Although her arborist certification has lapsed, Ms. Stafford has many years of experience in conducting tree assessments and documenting tree health using the International Society of Arboriculture standards.

c. Plant selections.

During the prior week, Messrs. Berkheiser and Davis talked and brought to this meeting lists and pictures of many plants that are suited for the park.

Before the next meeting they and Ms. Stafford will meet and agree on a shorter list of best plants they suggest be incorporated into a landscaping design.

d. Tallahassee Nurseries landscaping plan.

Time grew short and no discussion was held on whether any plants Tallahassee Nurseries proposed in its landscaping plan would be incorporated into the Committee's landscaping plan.

8. Encroachment ordinance.

With the respect to planting trees in street rights of way, Mr. Hall encouraged Committee members to read the "Encroachment Policies and Best Practices" document Historic Apalachicola Partnerships for Preservation, Inc. (HAPPI) wrote and presented at the City Commission's March 6, 2023, workshop and to comment at a future workshop when the city discusses the draft ordinance it's preparing.

9. Next meeting.

June 21, 2023, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.