

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
May 17, 2022, at 3 p.m.  
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees.

Scott Davis, Committee member,  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,  
Glen Jenkins, Code Enforcement Officer,  
Bree Robinson, City Planner,  
Bob Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Draft summary of Committee's April 19, 2022, meeting (prepared by Mr. Davis).

The Committee adopted without revision the draft summary for the April 19, 2022, meeting.

3. Pruning of six live oaks at Battery Park.

The City-supervised prisoner crew severely pruned the six live oaks donated by a resident, planted by Tallahassee Nurseries in January 2021, and watered by the Tree Committee until they were established. All bottom branches were removed leaving only about 18 to 24 inches of top growth.

Commissioner Grove will talk to the City Manager. Mr. Winterringer will talk to crew supervisor Greg Chancey the next time he sees him.

4. Discussions with new Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

Glen Jenkins's first day as the CEO was April 25.

a. Tree Ordinance requirements and tree removal permitting process.

- Segregating in the City budget money collected for the Reforestation Fund.—Money collected for each tree permit consists of an administrative processing fee (usually \$50 but sometimes \$100) and a Reforestation Fund fee (based on size of protected trees to be removed, up to \$250 per lot).

Prior to departure of the former CEO Joe Richey and former City Finance Director (CFD) Leo Bebeau, Mr. Winterringer had documented and the CFD agreed that \$6,645 was in the Reforestation Fund account as of November 23, 2021.

Mr. Jenkins collects the tree permit fees and gives them to Angela Creamer, former Code Enforcement Officer and current budget technician. From his previous discussions with

Ms. Creamer, Mr. Winterringer knows that she's aware that the money collected for the Reforestation Fund needs to be credited to the Reforestation Fund account.

- City removal of trees in street rights of way and on other City property.

The Land Development Code at Section 105-26(2) requires:

- A tree removal application be filled out when the City removes a protected tree in a street right of way. This serves as written documentation for why the tree was removed and is available for review if anyone asks.
- Review and recommendation by the Tree Committee if the tree is a patriarch (35 inches or more diameter at breast height).

This was not done for several trees removed over the last several months (patriarch live oak removed at 108 Avenue I; patriarch slash pine removed on Avenue H between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets; and large oak (live oak?) removed at Chapman Square adjacent to 70 14<sup>th</sup> Street) before Mr. Jenkins was hired. He said he'll follow the procedures and ask for the Tree Committee's recommendation on patriarch trees in street rights of way and on other City property before a decision is made on whether to remove them.

- Status of enforcement action on illegal removal of patriarch live oak on City street right of way at 270 Acola Avenue.

Later this week Mr. Jenkins intends to send a certified letter to the property owners, Doug and Joni Lawrence (essentially a notice of violations).

##### 5. Sabal palm killed by lethal bronzing disease.

There are dead and dying sabal palms north of, in, and south of Chestnut Street Cemetery.

Erik Lovestrand, University of Florida Extension Service, collected a trunk sample of the sick, now dead, palm in the highway right of way adjacent to Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 98 Avenue E. Analysis of the sample indicated that lethal bronzing disease, which has no cure, killed the tree.

Mr. Lovestrand will prepare an article for the Apalachicola Times to alert City residents of the disease.

This disease, which is spread by sucking insects, is highly contagious. Several dead and dying palms on City property should be removed as soon as possible and properly disposed. Mr. Davis will map the locations of the dead and dying palms so that this information can be given to Mr. Jenkins, who will arrange for removal of the trees.

Mr. Jenkins will document on tree removal application forms the trees that are removed.

On non-City property, the Land Development Code at Section 105-25(2) does require that a private property owner obtain a City permit to remove a diseased tree.

6. Removal of trees in Chestnut Street Cemetery.

Using grant money awarded to the City, a certified arborist prepared a 2017 letter report and spreadsheet recording the condition of the 171 trees on the Chestnut Street Cemetery grounds. He recommended the removal of the 29 trees that pose an extreme or high risks to monuments, fences, people, and utilities.

The Apalachicola Area Historical Society wants to implement this recommendation. Shan Raetzlof, Chairperson of the Society's Chestnut Street Cemetery Committee, met with the City Manager at the cemetery to discuss the removal of some of the trees that pose an extreme or high risk to monuments, fences, people, and utilities.

Mr. Winterringer, who is a member of the Committee, met with three tree removal companies to get quotes for removing one dead sabal palm (presumably killed by lethal bronzing disease), the three extreme risk trees, and two of the high risk trees (including the two-trunked tree where one of the rotten trunks fell within the last week).

Once received, the quotes will be submitted to the City Manager for submission to the City Commission for approval to spend the money to cut down the trees.

Prior to the work being done, Mr. Winterringer will prepare a permit application that will be submitted to the CEO. It will document the locations of the trees and the reasons for their removal

In his 2017 report, the certified arborist recommended the removal of one of the two Chapman oaks in the cemetery. In response to Mr. Davis's concern, this tree is not one that will be removed at this time. To protect these two trees and the suckers around them, Mr. Winterringer erected posts and tied off the areas with ribbon to alert the prison crew not to mow or trim in the tied off areas.

At last month's meeting, Mr. Davis discussed two options for the tree: use of steel-reinforced arborist hardware to stabilize the tree (possibly costing about \$5,000) or careful removal of tree and management/production of new tree via management of root suckers and or cuttings. Mr. Davis knows of Tallahassee arborists that are capable of doing the work. No decision was made to contact these persons for an estimate at this time. But this might be done in the future.

7. Next meeting.

June 21, 2022, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.