

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
July 17, 2018, 3:00 pm
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees:

Wilbur Bellew, Code Enforcement Officer,
Holly Brown, Committee member,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,
Pam Richardson, Committee member,
~~Robert Seaborn, Committee member,~~ and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person and note taker for this meeting.

2. Draft summary for the Committee's June 27, 2018, meeting (prepared by Ms. Richardson).

The draft meeting summary was adopted without revision.

3. Comments on draft Tree Ordinance received at July 9, 2018, workshop.

The workshop before the July 9, 2018, Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) meeting was sparsely attended. Four members of the PZB participated (Tom Daly, Geoff Hewell, Uta Hardy, and Joe Taylor); no members of the public were present.

The only proposed regulation that drew revision recommendations was the one concerning fees that would be charged for removal of protected trees. Of the three alternatives presented, two of the four PZB members favored the first alternative ("X per protected tree with a maximum of Y per lot per tree permit) but thought that the fees should be higher than the example \$25/tree with a maximum of \$100/lot.

In response to these comments, attendees at this Tree Committee meeting decided to propose the following fees:

- \$25 per protected tree for trees 4 inches to 15 inches in diameter breast height (dbh),
- \$35 per protected tree 16 to 34 inches dbh, and
- \$250 maximum total fee per lot per tree permit.

Ms. Brown suggested that the collected fees be deposited in the City's general fund rather than in the Beautification Fund as provided in the current Tree Ordinance. Mr. Bellew commented that the proposal to start charging private property owners tree permit processing fees for removal of trees on City property adjacent to private property and the doubling of tree permit processing fees for after-the-fact permits will result in more money being deposited into the general fund than is currently occurring. After discussion the attendees decided that the purpose of the fees is

to provide a means to mitigate the loss of trees rather than to augment the budget of City government. Therefore the attendees decided not to propose this revision to the Tree Ordinance.

Time ran out at the aforementioned workshop before discussion occurred on the last item, tree permit application fees and fines for illegal tree removal. Regarding fines, Mr. Winterringer and Mr. Bellew subsequent to the workshop attended a July 17 meeting of the City Administrator, City Planner, and City Attorney where discussion was held on implementation of the City Commission's decision to fine persons for short-term housing rentals in residential zones. Fines for such activity will be \$250 per day with a maximum of \$500 per day for repeated violation, which is consistent with the up-to-\$500 fines specified in Land Development Code section III.D.1. The proposed, revised Tree Ordinance states that fines for illegally removing or substantially altering a protected tree shall be in the amount specified in Code section III.D.1 (i.e., up to \$500). No revision of this proposed requirement is needed other than to state that the fine is per protected tree that is illegally removed or altered rather than per day of violation.

Mr. Bellew noted that the City's tree removal/substantial alteration permit application will need to be revised once the revised Tree Ordinance is enacted. Among other things, the application will be revised to require the applicant to attach a map showing the locations of protected trees and boundaries of development disturbances. Such map is required in the proposed site plan requirement at section VII.F.13.a.

4. Next workshop to discuss proposed Tree Ordinance revisions.

Mr. Winterringer will try to schedule another workshop immediately preceding the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting on August 13.

5. Next meetings.

- a. Workshop on August 13 at 5 p.m.?
- b. August 21, 3 p.m., regular monthly meeting.